Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Receives Award From Venezuelan State Government

FL2304180693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] In the past few hours, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has received the Cecilio Acosta First Class Medal, the highest honor given by the government of the State of Miranda, Venezuela. In the ceremony, Miranda State Governor Dr. Arnaldo Arrocha Varga said that the delegation from Miranda, which he heads, had come to Cuba to strengthen brotherhood between the Cuban and Venezuelan peoples.

In his responding remarks, Fidel said it is really an emotional event to receive this medal associated with the name Cecilio Acosta and therefore the name Jose Marti.

Raul Castro on 12-Year-Old Soviet 'Secret' Decision, Ties With U.S.

FL2304150993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] After being kept secret for 12 years, the former Soviet Union's decision not to participate in the active defense of Cuba, had Cuba been attacked or invaded by the United States during the belligerent period at the beginning of the Reagan administration, was revealed by Army General Raul Castro in his interview to EL SOL DE MEXICO. GRANMA carries the third installment of that interview today.

Raul says that in light of the Reagan administration's aggressiveness toward Cuba, it was decided to propose to the Soviets our opinion regarding the urgent need to develop political and diplomatic actions to put a brake on Yankee intentions to hit the island militarily.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] minister says: The Soviets informed us that they were not ready to issue any kind of warning to the United States as regarded Cuba, not even to remind the United States of Kennedy's October 1962 promise not to attack Cuba.

The USSR offered to continue to lend us its political and moral support and supply us with weapons, the minister said, after saying that already, long before that, Cuba had been operating on the conviction that the USSR would not go to war over Cuba and we knew that we could count only on our own forces to defend ourselves.

This obliged us to guard this secret jealously, to avoid encouraging the enemy, and it obliged us to redouble our preparation to wage a war of the entire people should imperialism force us to, the minister said in his interview.

Responding to a question regarding a possible distancing between the two countries as of that moment, Castro said that publicly relations were maintained as always and that, in fact, there were even certain gestures indicating that these relations were becoming even closer, which contributed to disinforming the enemy regarding the true Soviet position.

Regarding the measures that were taken as of that moment in the military domain, Raul said that our military reserves of all kinds were increased to the maximum whenever and wherever possible, in addition to starting the creation of the state reserves and other measures having to do with armaments and means for combat that would make it possible to wage the war of the entire people, a 100-year war if necessary, without help from abroad.

This population of descendents of the Mambises, of rebel sons, of internationalist fighters, learned to be heroic in the cradle, listening to the accounts of their elders or in the jungles, in far-off jungles struggling at the side of other peoples, Raul said after telling interviewer Mario Vazquez Rana how a war on the national territory would be waged, should the enemy dare to attack us. [sentence as heard]

In another part of his interview, Raul says the Pentagon knows full well that Cuba is resolved to resist and fight to the end and that that is why it employs the strategy of asphyxiating us economically, of trying to starve us to death or create conditions that will allow it to try a so-called humanitarian intervention, which has become the fashion as a form of imperialist intervention against peoples with the consent of the UN Security Council manipulated by the United States.

In his interview, Raul Castro pointed out the imperialists' euphoria following their successes in the Persian Gulf and how General Colin Powell, chairman of the Bush administration's Joint Chiefs of Staff, proferred threats against Cuba to which Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, responded in an appropriate way. Rosales said that in military matters, arrogance and boasting have never produced results and I do not think he is referring to Cuba, because our people have shown more than enough proof, for over 100 years, of their patriotism, fortitude, and courage. [no opening or ending quote as heard]

After saying that the final objective of everything done in the sphere of defense is to avoid war, something our people know, Raul says: We will continue fortifying ourselves as long as the danger of an aggression exists.

To finish with this topic, the FAR minister referred to the letter Fidel sent U.S. students at Lafayette High School in Virginia in which the commander in chief says Cuba is a small country concerned with preserving everything it has achieved and that it is absurd to think we represent a threat to the United States and that, therefore, there is no justification for imposing on us a blockade that deprives us of medicines and foodstuffs.

Regarding relations with the United States, Raul said that Cuba has always intended to sit down to talk one

day, in a climate of mutual respect and without anyone's trying to force us to accept conditions that are ignoble and that go against our sovereignty.

Raul said: They can be sure that on such a basis, we would be willing, at any time, to contribute to normalizing relations between the two countries.

The last topic discussed was that of the Guantanamo Naval Base, which is not among those the Clinton administration plans to close. The minister said that in his opinion, from a military point of view and regarding U.S. defense strategy, the Guantanamo base is obsolete, for it is very costly to maintain. Closing it down would turn out to be profitable for the United States.

Castro then said that Cuba will not back down from its absolutely firm position of proclaiming our sovereign right to that portion of the soil of our fatherland.

Regarding the payment of rent for the base—some $340 per month—Raul said that that ridiculous sum would not suffice to rent even an attic in any U.S. city and that Cuba has not cashed a single one of the rent checks. He said these checks are being collected so they can be shown in the naval base's museum when the base is returned to Cuba.

On Drugs, Political Liberalization

FL2404190893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Today, a report on the fourth and last part of Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Minister Raul Castro Ruz' interview to Mario Vazquez Rana, director of the daily paper EL SOL DE MEXICO:

Answering a question from the journalist, Raul makes it very clear, or confirms, that Cuba is one of the few countries in the world where drugs are, for all practical purposes, neither produced nor consumed, nor is money laundered; that is, where drug trafficking does not constitute a source of income for anyone.

Castro highlights Cuba's role in the struggle against drugs and points out the acknowledgement of this by the UN program for drug control. That organization places us among the top ten in the continent in the fight against drug traffickers and in seizures of cocaine and marijuana.

Vazquez Rana also expresses an interest in the political liberalization in Cuba. That liberalization, Raul affirms, in a way began back in 1959 when, as a result of the people's victory, politics became the patrimony of millions of people and the political struggle began to be waged at all levels of society. Raul added: That liberalization had the effect of provoking the toughest shutout from abroad that anyone can remember. He pointed out, in this connection, Cuba's expulsion from the OAS and the pressure exerted by the United States on all the world's governments—particularly those of Latin America—to break off their relations with Cuba.

It was not Cuba that shut itself out, Raul said. Cuba was shut out by others and whether the encirclement around Cuba is lifted does not depend on Cuba.

Castro also talked about the changes applied on the island and the masses' participation in these changes: the approval of the new Constitution, the reorganization of the state administration, and the creation of the People's Government organs.

In the interview with the Mexican journalist, Castro discusses at length the nature of the Cuban electoral process and the fundamental changes in voting and running for office.

Asked how many Cuban soldiers there are abroad, Raul said, exactly: There are 10 officers, who are military attaches or assistant (?attaches), in eight countries of Asia, Africa, Europe, and America. And at the same time, he reiterated what Fidel said at the Tripartite Conference: The era of Cuban internationalist military missions is now past.

In another part of the interview, Castro talks about how dialogue with the governments of North America should be conducted based on two principles: equality among parties and respect for the sovereignty and independence of our respective nations.

In this fourth and last part of the interview, Castro assesses as magnificent the relations between Mexico and Cuba. That country, Castro adds, has always resisted with great dignity the pressures from the United States to break or cool its diplomatic relations with Cuba. Raul seized the opportunity to send a great big hug, as the Mexicans like to put it, to the beloved, fraternal people of Mexico.

ANPP President Says No 'Inflammatory Statements' Heard From U.S.

PA2404233693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0658 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Report on an interview with Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, by Marisol Marin in Havana on 23 April]

[Text] Havana, 23 Apr (EFE)—Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government (ANPP), said on 23 April that Cuban authorities have noticed "a more moderate and equable attitude" from the United States with regard to Cuba.

Alarcon said that "no inflammatory statements have been heard for a while."

In an interview granted to EFE, Alarcon, who has been presiding over the ANPP for a little over a month, admitted that "we, too, are using different language, because it would not be fair to blame this U.S. Administration for things for which it is not responsible."

"We are not winking at anyone, but it is obvious that this administration has inherited an anti-Cuban policy it did not create and, at the same time, among its members are important officials who have not been hostile toward Cuba," he said.

The president of the Cuban Assembly also stated his interest in developing more ties with the U.S. Congress, "from which, theoretically—he said—, a more balanced and objective attitude can be expected."

"We are open to dialogue and discussion, but they must realize that our system is supported by the majority of the Cuban people," Alarcon said, alluding to the 24 February elections in which 90 percent of the voters voted for all the candidates for deputy nominated by the government.

Alarcon said he never suggested a one-year truce in the economic blockade because, "that is foolish. If they lift it for a year, they will not impose it again the next year." He also made reference to the technical difficulties such a decision would entail.

The president of the Cuban Assembly said it is not clear how that bundle of laws and legal dispositions could be unraveled but apparently, in principle, it depends more on Congress than on the Executive Branch, although in any event foreign policy is the U.S. President's prerogative.

Ricardo Alarcon, whose relief from office as foreign minister and later election to the ANPP presidency puzzled diplomats, officials, and the general public, admitted that this change had indeed prompted much speculation.

"It is true that I have encountered some people who are not pleased about my not being foreign minister and who do not fully understand my new duties," said Alarcon.

The ANPP president does not see his new post as a "trampoline" to other higher responsibilities, however, as interpreted by some observers in Havana after Cuban President Fidel Castro announced his desire to retire.

In a news conference held on 24 February, Castro said he would not like to be a candidate again in the next elections, to be held in 1998, "but it is hard to think of anyone who could replace Fidel in all his duties," said Alarcon.

He said, however, that even if it seems that Castro monopolizes and centralizes all the decisions, "it really is not that way. The decisions are always agreed with, even though his moral authority, strength, and personality are way above those of the others. The day he is replaced, his successor will head a collective organization "

He insisted on his objective of energizing the ANPP, particularly with commissions and by establishing consultation mechanisms starting at the rank and file and going all the way to the Assembly.

Currently, the ANPP meets in two annual periods of sessions, which are usually no longer than two days each, and unanimity among the deputies has seldom ever been broken when approving a law.

According to the ANPP president, "there is no need to seek unanimity as a goal, but on significant affairs it is good to have unanimity and, furthermore, if affairs are previously discussed and all the parties give advice, we should be surprised if, in the end, there were still differences."

Regarding the eventual incorporation of dissidents, Alarcon categorically said that "they have to get over 50 percent of the vote." He added: "We will not attribute to the so-called dissidents support from masses they do not have."

Lawyer, Pilot Arrive in Cayman Islands, Seek Asylum in U.S.

PA2404024793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0150 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Georgetown, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Local authorities reported on 23 April that two Cubans, a lawyer and a pilot, arrived in a light plane at the Cayman Islands, located south of Cuba, in search of political asylum to be able to establish themselves in the United States.

On the night of 22 April, the Cubans landed on the British colony after a two-hour flight over the Caribbean in a one-seat aircraft. It was reported that the aircraft had been modified to carry both Cubans.

Georgetown authorities reported that the aircraft will be returned to Havana and that the Cubans, who are from the middle eastern city of Camaguey, will not be allowed to work or study in the country until the situation of their U.S. visas has been resolved.

Five of 14 Ships Arrive From Key West Carrying Humanitarian Aid

FL2604014593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] As of 1800 on 25 April, 5 of the 14 vessels from Key West had arrived in Cuba. The vessels are carrying 10 tons of humanitarian aid for Cuba. The group, called "Basta," has obtained permission from the federal government to carry 10 million tons to Cuba up to April, 1995. Mr. John Young, the organizer of the fleet who is making the trip in a personal capacity, expressed his satisfaction at having succeeded in carrying this project through. The donations will be handed over tomorrow at the Marianao Pediatric (?hospital).

[Video interview of fleet member Irene Fernandez, identified by caption] [Reporter] She is an operating room nurse in a Key West hospital. She came with this fleet of Americans for humanitarian aid. She has just arrived here at the Hemingway Marina. Irene, what is the reason for the trip by you people?

[Fernandez] For humanitarian aid for the people of Cuba, the persons in Cuba. To bring them medicine, food, clothing, pillowcases, sheets. It does not have to do with politics but is rather a humanitarian thing, people to people.

[Reporter] And yourself specifically? Why have you made this trip? You are very young.

[Fernandez] Well, not so young, but I believe in what we are doing. I believe in the humanitarian reasons that... [pauses] I am part Cuban and live in the United States. I think we have to help all Cubans, whether there or here, and I am... [pauses] I would like to help everyone, if I could. That is why I agree with this fleet that is on its way here.

[Reporter] What was your ship carrying?

[Fernandez] We are carrying a variety of things: medicine, clothing, pillowcases, powdered milk, baby food, a little bit of everything. All boats were loaded with a variety of things. No one boat was loaded exclusively with medicine or... [pauses] A little of everything was put aboard each.

Delegation Meets With Guinean President 25 Apr

FL2504210093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1957 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] In Conakry, Guinean President Lansana Conte has met with a Cuban delegation headed by Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, an official [deputy chief, General Department of Foreign Relations] of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Document of Intention Signed With Holland

FL2504210293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1956 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Last week, representatives of the cities of Havana and Rotterdam, Holland, signed a document of intention to strengthen existing ties of friendship, cooperation, and bilateral trade.

Vice Health Minister Removed From Post After Outbreak of Eye Disease

PA2304141393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1027 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Havana, 23 Apr (AFP)—Hector Terry, vice minister for hygiene and epidemiology at the Cuban Public Health Ministry, was removed from his post shortly after the outbreak of an eye disease attributed to a lack of vitamins was reported in Cuba, reliable sources stated.

The sources did not indicate the date or reasons for Terry's removal. They simply said it was "recent" and that it has not been officially confirmed.

The Health Ministry reported on 3 April that "optical neuritis," which produces a progressive and irreversible blindness, first appeared in Cuba in 1992 and had assumed "epidemic proportions."

Terry was in charge of hygiene and epidemiology at the Public Health Ministry and has accumulated vast experience since the 1960's. He was popular with the media, which affectionately called him "Doctor AIDS."

He was considered the architect of a program for the reclusion of people who tested positive for AIDS in special clinics. Although controversial, the program turned Cuba into a country where AIDS hardly spread: only 992 patients, 119 of whom have died, since the terrible disease appeared in 1986.

The official 3 April report said a vitamin deficiency, smoking, and consuming alcoholic beverages are three "risk factors directly associated to the origins" of optical neuritis

According to observers in Havana, the consumption of alcohol and tobacco in Cuba is at its lowest level in recent years given the drop in production, but it is also the year in which fresh legumes and vegetables are scarce in the people's daily diet.

The report accused the United States of being "the main ally of this epidemic and its consequences," referring to Washington's economic, financial, and trade embargo against the Cuban Government, which "makes it difficult to purchase food and medicine."

The report omitted the numbers on this epidemic, but according to unconfirmed reports, it affects between 7,000 and 12,000 persons, particularly in the western part of the island.

The disease is known in other countries, but official sources say "Cuban" optical neuritis seems anomalous. The intensive research launched by government specialists faces the inexplicable causes for its disparate geographical manifestation.

Therapy eliminates the factors that worsen the condition (alcohol and tobacco) and demands an adequate supply of vitamin B.

The state-owned pharmaceutical industry began to accelerate the manufacture of up to 1.8 million tablets that will be distributed free of charge to the population starting in May.

New Vice Health Minister Appointed

PA2304210993 Paris AFP in Spanish 2003 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Havana, 23 Apr (AFP)—On 23 April, Public Health Ministry sources stated when pressed by questions from Western reporters that Abelardo Ramirez, until today the public health vice minister for medical assistance, has assumed the post of public health vice minister for hygiene and epidemiology.

The sources thus confirmed the removal of Dr. Hector Terry, which had been unofficially reported on 22 April to the foreign press.

Dr. Terry had become famous for the campaign he designed against AIDS, which involved massive testing and the isolation of patients found to be carriers of the virus in specialized clinics. This resulted in an effective control of AIDS is Cuba: 902 cases (119 deaths) since 1986.

DAAFAR Helicopter Regiment Demonstrates Combat 'Mastery'

FL2304152293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1434 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] During the second phase of the "April Victory" flight maneuver, which is happening in the Central Army areas, pilots of the Central Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR] helicopter regiment demonstrated combat mastery. Besides performing various support actions for ground troops, the flight personnel performed a combat missile firing exercise well.

Before this second phase, the unit achieved complete combat readiness, a phase characterized by the good efforts of chiefs, command units, and technical assurance personnel. The main course of the maneuver involved troop support actions due to the technical flight movements to destroy ground targets, troop landings, radiology research, and large supply loads.

Heavy Rains Said Affecting Granma Province Sugarcane Harvest

FL2304152893 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The agricultural sugarcane centers of Granma Province have been seriously affected in the past few days by the numerous rain storms registered in almost all of this eastern province. According to the Sugar Industry Ministry delegation in the province, only three of the nine mills that are still working in the sugar harvest are operating. Meanwhile, the provincial weather station predicted more rain in the next few hours.

It is also reported that heavy rain and lack of electricity have caused new problems in the sugar harvest in Santiago de Cuba Province, where it is reported that dozens of milling hours have been lost at the eight centers of the province.

Las Tunas Possible Agricultural Harvest Noted

FL2304181993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Las Tunas—Despite material difficulties, this province is in a position to harvest close to 2 million quintals of agricultural products, thereby growing by some 700,000 quintals in comparison to last year. Journalist Hernan Bosch tells us more about this.

[Bosch] That was the conclusion reached at a meeting held to assess the province's miscellaneous crops. This meeting was presided over by Politburo members Julian Rizo Alvarez and Alfredo Jordan Morales. Jordan is the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Las Tunas Province.

During the analysis, it was reported that Las Tunas Province's miscellaneous crops enterprises and cooperatives exceeded the cold-season planting plan by planting over 900 caballerias; of the 324 caballerias planned for spring, 266 have already been planted. It is therefore anticipated that the entire 324-caballeria planting plan will have been fulfilled in May.

Including these results, Las Tunas has over 1,700 caballerias planted in various crops, which represents 82 percent of the province's total cultivable area, a figure never before reached in the province.

Outstanding in this achievement are approximately 950 caballerias of plantains, mostly burro-sensa, and 368 caballerias of yucca, two crops with good results in this area characterized by intense droughts.

During the meeting, Rizo Alvarez said that despite the advances made by Las Tunas Province's agriculture, efforts to improve work discipline and technological discipline must be increased, as must concern with obtaining higher yields in the different crops.

More Than Scheduled Interruptions in Electric Service Noted

FL2304191393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The National Electric Union announces that this week there have been more interruptions in electric service than scheduled, due to difficulties with supplying fuel to the Mariel Thermoelectric Plant and the Diez de Octubre Thermoelectric Plant in Nuevitas. In addition, a breakdown occurred at 1400 on 21 April at the (Rente) Thermoelectric Plant in Santiago de Cuba. This made the situation worse, and electric service is being severely affected from Sancti Spiritus all the way to Guantanamo.

Now that the fuel problem has been resolved at the Mariel and Diez de Octubre plants and with the repair at the (Rente) plant in the final phase, it is hoped that the amount of electricity provided will begin increasing today in the affected provinces until normalcy is reached sometime Saturday [24 April].

Granma Province Union Holds Meeting on Housing

FL2304191593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Granma Province's first union meeting on materials-efficient, low-cost housing is taking place now in Bayamo, presided over by Pedro Ross, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC]. Jorge Luis Batista has the report.

[Batista] Four committees made up of Construction Ministry and People's Government specialists presented papers on, among other things: plans for materials-efficient, low-cost housing; producing alternative building materials from local resources; and replacements for the traditional resources used back when conditions in Cuba's economy were normal.

With a view to solving the housing problem here, Granma Province will continue to encourage production of construction materials in the different municipalities and at the People's Council level. The [necessary] technical-economical mechanisms will be created and the construction of materials-efficient, low-cost buildings in rural areas will be increased, specifically with regard to socioeconomic targets, such as the agricultural-food program.

Through the participation of government builders and the population's own efforts, Granma Province could have 2,000 ?aterials-efficient, low-cost housing units by the end of this year.

'Best' Military Hospital Receives Award

FL2304223293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1942 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] A certificate signed by Army General Raul Castro was presented to Comandante Manuel Fajardo Rivero Military Hospital in Santa Clara to mark its status as best of its kind in the country. This important tribute was presented by Division General Joaquin Quintas Solas, the chief of the Central Army, to Medical Services Lieutenant Colonel Calixto Gonzalez Gomez, director of the hospital. Tomas Cardenas Garcia, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Villa Clara, attended the ceremony where it was stressed that the military hospital of Santa Clara in 1992 achieved the highest score in the medical services emulation program of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

During his visit to Villa Clara Province, the chief of the Central Army presented the High Vanguard Unit Certificate to the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force of central Cuba.

Cayman Islands

Two Cuban Refugees Land in Single-Seat Cropduster

FL2504203193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1623 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, April 25, CANA—Two Cubans flying a single-seat cropduster aircraft have landed in the Cayman Islands, continuing an exodus that has brought more than 200 Cuban refugees to this British territory over the past four years.

Officials said the two men touched down on Cayman Brac Island Thursday [22 April] afternoon after the two-hour trip across the ocean from Cuba. Because the plane was a single seater, the men had to take the canopy off and fly literally sitting on top of each other.

They were immediately taken into custody by Cayman immigration authorities for processing and were to be transported here where they will be accommodated in a government house set up for Cuban refugees. An Immigration Department officer, who asked not to be identified, said both men expressed a desire to go to the United States. "One of the men said he is a lawyer and the other claimed he is a cropduster pilot," said the officer.

According to the immigration officer, the pilot said he took off Thursday morning on a routine cropdusting mission. Later, he landed on a dirt road and picked up his friend. The pilot said they both came from Camaguey, a large city in the east-central region of Cuba. The pilot indicated the flight had been planned for some time.

During the past four years, more than 200 Cuban refugees have reached the Cayman Islands from southern Cuba. While in the Cayman Islands, the Cubans are not allowed to work or attend schools while their applications for U.S. visas are being processed. There are now a total of 42 Cubans refugees here after 117 departed last month for the Dominican Republic in hopes of obtaining U.S. visas faster than the anticipated one-year waiting period that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has indicated. Their transfer to the Dominican Republic was organised by a Cuban exile group based in Miami, Florida.

Haiti

MDN Reacts 'Indignantly' to UN Resolution

FL2304220393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Mobilization for National Development [MDN] has rejected the resolution by the UN General Assembly. Hubert de Ronceray's party received the resolution of the 47th session of the UN General Assembly adopted on 20 April, indignantly. The resolution demands the immediate return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the presidency and encourages some economic and diplomatic sanctions against Haiti.

Through this resolution, says MDN, the international community has missed another opportunity to pull itself together to confront the Haitian crisis. It shows to what extent the international community is prisoner to cliches fostered by corrupt interests, using the Haitian case for private, selfish goals.

MDN also deplores the fact that the UN General Assembly let itself be led on the shameful and degrading path of erroneous decisions in blatant violation of the

Haitian people's fundamental right to self-determination, to respect for its Constitution, its law, and its culture.

Demonstrators Stage Sit-In, Demand New Elections

FL2304155493 Port-au-Prince Tele-Haiti in French 1030 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 22 April, the office in the Senate of the Republic dominated by the parliamentarians of the progovernmental alliance [Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, ACP] was waiting for Finance Minister Wiener Fort to defend the three bills brought in on 21 April. Remember that those bills concern taxes on license plates of private vehicles, travel tickets, and identification cards.

Meanwhile, a group of demonstrators was observing a sit-in in front of the parliament to ask the lower chamber for a verdict on Mireille Durocher Bertin's request relating to the trial of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The demonstrators demanded the holding of new presidential elections in Haiti. [Begin recording, in Creole] [Unidentified demonstrator] The purpose of this sit-in is to give as much support and help as possible to Attorney Bertin's request that Aristide be tried before the High Court of Justice.

[Unidentified correspondent] Why?

[Demonstrator] For constitutional violations committed while he was president and, especially, because a Haitian does not have the right to ask foreigners to interfere.

[Correspondent] There are people who think that many constitutional violations were committed under Aristide as well as after his departure.

[Demonstrator] Why do not you say what they [not further identified] did? A person was arrested supposedly because he is an Aristide partisan. Inside there [referring to the parliament] are many Aristide partisans. Are they arrested? If you do something wrong, the police must arrest you. Then, it is something else, if we wonder—subsequent to that—whether the person is an Aristide partisan or not. But actually, we here are those who first want the police to arrest so-and-so because he is a thief. Should they stop arresting people? If the person is an Aristide partisan, should they no longer arrest him? Is that a violation of human rights?

We will make every effort to prompt the parliament to do the job it must do, [that is] to try Aristide before the High Court of Justice. Then, the Legislative Chamber that Attorney Bertin has asked to indict Aristide.... Aristide is a criminal. He killed Dr. Roger Lafontant. Jean-Bertrand killed Sylvio Claude. Aristide did not.... Look, the OAS, the United Nations.... Aristide can no longer return to Haiti as president. If Aristide returned, there would be civil war. Aristide has not been president for 18 months. We only want our country to be well-organized, the Army.... [changes thought] to hold proper elections so we can appoint a provisional president to hold elections in the country. But we do not at all want [to hear about] the matter of Jean-Bernard or Jean-Bertrand Aristide alias Ti Maurice in the country. Let him stay where he is. [end recording]

Pro-Aristide Demonstrators in Gonaives Dispersed

FL2304160293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] In Gonaives, a demonstration supporting the ousted president was held inside a school. Police surrounded the Lycee Geffrad on Wednesday [no date specified] to prevent a gathering of young people on the city streets.

The Justice and Peace Commission documented the manhandling of a 23-year-old by the military authorities.

Several hundred people who were demonstrating on 22 April in the Raboteau quarter in Gonaives to demand the return to power of the ousted president were dispersed with batons by the military. This information was reported by the Haitian Press Agency. The agency indicates that the students of the Lycee Fabre Geffrad in Gonaives who were also demonstrating were held for several hours by a group of armed military. They were able to leave the building only through the intervention of the members of the civilian mission.

PANPRA Member Elisma Tenders Resignation

FL2204231493 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1600 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] According to the Haitian press, Claude Elisma, a member of the national coordinating office and a financial officer of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [PANPRA], in a letter dated 19 April to General Coordinator Serge Gilles, tendered his resignation from this political group.

After mature reflection, it is time for me to step down from my responsibilities vis-a-vis PANPRA, whose capability of adopting.... [pauses] because I doubt its ability to bring a solution to the multiple problems faced by Haitian society in the current crisis, wrote Elisma, who is also coordinator of this party for the Department of the West.

While having reservations about PANPRA's behavior, Elisma believes his presence in the party wrongly sustains contradictions in his family and signs away his state of health.

In a memorandum to PANPRA General Coordinator Serge Gilles on 25 February, members of the party's managerial staff, including Elisma, demanded, for the beginning of March, a serene, rational internal debate on the policy followed by their political group for about a

year. Elisma, who participated in PANPRA's extraordinary session on 4 April, following the 25 February memorandum, has deemed the resolutions resulting from that meeting insufficient.

PNOP Initiates 'Great Mobilization'

FL2204171493 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1100 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Report by Emmanuel Laurent—recorded in Creole]

[Text] On 21 April, the National Platform of People's Organizations [Plateforme Nationale des Organisations Populaires, PNOP] initiated a great mobilization throughout the entire nation. The purpose of this mobilization campaign is to foil the stalling tactics and champion at the same time the return to legality in the country. Emmanuel Laurent was present at the news conference held by the officials of this platform on 21 April:

[Laurent] The PNOP that groups people's organizations and peasant unions have called for a general mobilization so democracy and President Aristide can return to the country. This was announced during a news conference held during the morning of 21 April at the Christopher Hotel.

[Unidentified speaker] PNOP is a forum for concerted action, political pluralism, tolerance, and understanding for democracy. After 18 months of tribulations, black misfortunes, repressions, and blind reprisals, the 30 September [1991] crisis has reached its final dimension which cannot be other than a struggle between an old world that has not completely gone and a new world that has not yet been completely established. It is this fundamental reason that has prompted the popular sector to organize itself [ranmase karakte-l] by setting up the PNOP to facilitate establishment of a new society in which justice will become a reality in a society.... [pauses] in a democratic state.

[Laurent] We recall that this is not the first call for mobilization that has been made at different times in the country to ask for the return to constitutional order so stalling tactics can end.

We noted the presence of several political personalities, such as Jean-Claude Nord, who is a lawyer and human rights militant, at this news conference.

Jamaica

Electoral Office Completes Final Vote Counting

FL2304021893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2257 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 22, CANA—Jamaica's electoral office has completed final counting of votes polled in the controversial March 30 general elections, with the victorious Peoples National Party (PNP) capturing 52 seats to the Jamaica Labour Party's (JLP) eight.

The electoral office told CANA Thursday that the last undeclared seat up to this week, West Rural St. Andrew, had been called for the PNP's Vernon Robinson by 4,206 votes to 3,780 for the JLP's Charles Ramocan. Clive Smith of the fringe Republican Party received 18 votes.

Several petitions seeking to overturn election results have already been filed in the Supreme Court by the three contesting parties. The JLP says it could end up filing as many as 20 petitions.

[Passage indistinct] Andrew, won by the PNP's Karlene Kirlew-Robertson over the JLP's Douglas Vaz and Central Clarendon for Mike Henry as the JLP over the PNP's Derrick Webb.

Yet another magisterial recount is scheduled for South West St. Ann on Monday [26 April]. The seat was declared for the JLP's Dr. Neville Gallimore by 15 votes over the PNP's Glenville Shaw.

Last week, 31 ballot boxes were rejected by the returning officer for North Western St. Andrew and another box could not be found, as the JLP's Derrick Smith was declared winner of that constituency by seven votes over the PNP's Jepthah Ford.

North West St. Andrew had a particularly high rate of fraud on an election day marred by ballot box stuffing, administrative bungling, and voter intimidation, partiucularly in some urban constituencies.

At one stage, on election day, opposition leader Edward Seaga and his entourage were trapped at a polling station in the constituency by PNP supporters who accused him of attempting to steal ballot boxes. Seaga has hotly denied the charge, claiming he had gone to the polling station in an effort to put a stop to massive fraud being perpetrated at the time by PNP supporters.

The PNP has filed court actions to overturn the result of the election there as well as in West Central St. Catherine which was declared for the veteran JLP politician Enid Bennett.

The JLP has so far filed petitions on behalf of Anthony Johnson in North East St. Catherine against Phyllis Mitchell; Edmund Bartlett in Eastern St. Andrew against [words indistinct] and Tom Tavares-Finson in North Central St. Andrew against Karl Samuda.

JLP spokesman Hector Wynter told CANA Thursday that as many as 20 petitions may eventually be filed by the party.

Defense Force Head Against Police-Army Merger

FL2504213893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2345 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 24, CANA—The chief of staff of the Jamaica Defence Force, Commodore Peter

Brady, has been quoted here as being against the merger of the police and the Army—one of the possible solutions proposed last year by opposition leader, Edward Seaga, to Jamaica's crime and security problems.

The JAMAICA HERALD newspaper said Brady knocked down the proposal in a speech to the Kingston Rotary Club, but carried no specific quote of him with an outright rejection of the idea. Brady was not immediately available for comment.

"Hitting at the propsoal, which he said could be based on emotion rather than logic, Commodore Brady asserted that the failure of uninformed persons to appreciate the purpose of military forces in a society such as ours could cause inappropriate decisions to be taken to the detriment of the nation," the paper said in its report.

It is unusual for the head of the Jamaica military to speak out publicly on sensitive political issues as the debate of the merger was likely to become. According to the HERALD, while Brady was not against the question of a rational review of national security and the institutions responsible for it, he argued that the Army should not have to be seen to be justifying its existence everyday.

"I believe that the JDF has demonstrated from 1962 to the present that we are a good investment," he was quoted as saying.

Costa Rica

Calderon on Not Getting Involved in Regional Integration

PA2304171393 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Apr 93 p 4a

[Report by Jose Loria]

[Text] Upon the arrival of Honduran President Rafael Callejas on 19 April in San Jose, Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon insisted that for the time being his country does not wish to get involved in political or immigration integration with its regional partners.

Calderon reaffirmed his stand that there are no conditions at present for Costa Rica to open its borders completely to Central American immigration and to join regional political organizations.

The president, however, clarified that his country's stand does not counter Central American integration interests, because an accelerated process continues.

Costa Rica, he added, supports the integration of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, with the approval and addition of Nicaragua, into the so-called "northern triangle" to move faster toward achieving full integration in all areas.

Its Central American partners, Calderon said, have allowed Costa Rica to accelerate its negotiations to sign a free trade agreement with Mexico.

Calderon added: "In fact, we will be the first Central American country to sign an agreement with Mexico. [no closing quotation mark as published]

The president reported, during a news conference after welcoming Callejas, that national authorities fear a possible invasion of Nicaraguans should its borders be opened to Central American immigration as a result of a broad integration process.

Calderon added he understands unemployment stands at 60 percent in Nicaragua, compared to 3.6 percent in Costa Rica, which is considered the lowest in Latin America.

Costa Rican authorities think some 1 million people could enter Costa Rica in a few months in search of better living conditions.

President Callejas brought to Costa Rica an optimistic message in favor of Central American integration during his official courtesy visit, which will last until the late afternoon of 20 April.

During his stay in the country, Callejas has discussed with Calderon integration problems and the difficulties that Latin American banana exporters will face in the EC as of 1 July.

Presidential technical teams from the two countries are involved in the discussion of free transit of people and goods through all nations of the isthmus. Callejas arrived in Costa Rica at 0900 and received a protocol welcome at the National Museum garden.

He later placed a wreath on the National Monument and was declared a distinguished guest of the city during a ceremony at Morazan Square in front of the statue of Central American leader General Francisco Morazan.

Afterward, Callejas met for the first time with Calderon at the Presidential Palace for a working meeting. After the meeting, Callejas said he would like the Central American integration process to be completed successfully.

Callejas explained that the "northern triangle" initiative, which will establish the free transit of persons and goods, is not different from nor does it exclude the integration effort under way by all the countries on the isthmus.

"There is no difference whatsoever, because although they are two parallel processes, they do not exclude what each country believes it must promote to be integrated," Callejas said.

Callejas said all the Central American countries are designing popular consultation mechanisms that do not contradict the integration effort.

Alluding to Costa Rica's attitude, the Honduran president said that each nation is sovereign and independent and that he has long been aware of Costa Rica's position "that in this phase of the process it is not willing to consider a political option."

This framework, Callejas admitted, will not hinder the economic integration process which, in his opinion, is on the right path.

Callejas announced that the level of trade among the Central American countries has increased considerably, so much so that at the beginning of this second phase of integration it will increase from $500 million to $1 billion in 1993.

Costa Rica, according to its trade and integration authorities, fears serious fiscal damage if its trade barriers are entirely eliminated.

Nevertheless, Callejas said that any Costa Rican proposal will be welcome at the negotiating table.

On the afternoon of 19 April, the Honduran president visited the Legislative Assembly, where he delivered a speech to the deputies.

On 20 April Callejas will visit Zarcero, Alajuela, where he will meet with community leaders. At noon Callejas and Calderon will sign the "Zarcero Declaration."

Following a news conference in the diplomatic room at Juan Santamaria International Airport, Callejas will return to his country at 1600.

El Salvador

Defense Minister Remarks on Resignation, Restructuring

PA2304202593 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Apr 93

[News conference by Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce with unidentified reporters at the Camino Real Hotel in San Salvador on 23 April—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ponce] I am still the minister. [Reporter] When will a decision be made? [Ponce] The president must make that decision with [words indistinct]. [Reporter] Some said it will in June [Ponce] I hope to have a news conference [words indistinct]. [Reporter] Did the president accept your resignation? [Ponce] For the time being we are still holding talks with him. [Reporter] Who are the possible candidates to replace you? [Ponce] You will know at the opportune time. [Reporter] [words indistinct] [Ponce] I do not think so. [Reporter] [words indistinct] [Ponce] We are in a phase of restructuring and modernizing the military institution, and those who are knowledgeable about military arts and sciences are the military. In a critical time such as this one, we do not think it is appropriate for a civilian to take over the Defense Ministry. [Reporter] When will that time come? [Ponce] The circumstances and the development of democracy in our countries will tell. [Reporter] How are the curriculum changes and the training process at the military school coming along? [Ponce] If you recall, and in accordance to the agreements, an academic council was established, comprising an equal number of civilians and military; there eight in all. They represent all ideologies; in fact it has a representative of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. They are reviewing the military school officer training curriculum. The academic council has worked to seek consensus. [words indistinct] we are very pleased by the work conducted by that council. [Reporter] What has been done specifically? [Ponce] The first thing was to review the admission system. It is also reviewing each course and the work plan to be implemented in May.

Cristiani Says Next Defense Minister Must Be Military Officer

PA2404205093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] President of the Republic Alfredo Cristiani said on 23 April that the office of defense minister must be filled by a military officer, although he did not rule out the possibility of it being filled by a civilian.

After Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce resigned on 12 March, President Alfredo Cristiani has still not decided who will occupy the office. Asked about this, however, he said the minister must be a military officer.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] During the transition, it would be best to appoint an Armed Forces officer as defense minister. But, that will be done later.

[Unidentified reporter] Why could it not be a civilian?

[Cristiani] It could be. We believe, however, that at this time of transition for the Armed Forces it would be preferable to appoint someone who knows the institution well and not someone who is not a member and, therefore, does not know many things and could delay restructuring and changes within the Armed Forces instead of facilitating them. [end recording]

The president also clarified why an OAS mission will not visit the country on the previously agreed dates.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We notified it that a postponement of the visit was better because, on those dates, many officials, particularly ministers, will be out of the country and they will not have the opportunity to meet with the mission. It is not that we are not allowing it in; we are just postponing the visit. [end recording]

President Cristiani made these statements after inaugurating the 10th Agrarian Exposition at the International Fair, where he was accompanied by the agriculture minister and other government authorities. The fair will take place between 23 April and 2 May and will display the best and most outstanding of the country's stock breeding.

New Onusal Head Meets With Copaz on Peace Process

PA2404234093 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 22 Apr 93 p 23

[Text] Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, new head of the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal], on 21 April met with the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] to learn of the work this commission is doing. Ramirez Ocampo said that Copaz has been a very important instrument in the peace process. He added that the peace process has been carried out in an admirable manner in El Salvador and it is now an example for the rest of the world.

The new head of Onusal said that the total consolidation of the peace process will conclude with the March 1994 elections, during which the new authorities will be chosen, and which will be clean and honest.

On heeding the recommendations made by the Truth Commission regarding the participation of members of the Armed Forces and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in the violation of human rights during the war years, Ramirez Ocampo said that "what the Truth Commission did was invite the Supreme Court magistrates to contribute to the peace process by resigning, but the Salvadoran Constitution and its laws, as well as the magistrates' will are at stake and it is up to them, the magistrates, to decide what they will do."

Regarding this situation, Supreme Court President Mauricio Gutierrez Castro has said on several occasions that he will not leave his post and that he will fulfill his term, which ends in 1994. He has said that as court president, he has acted at all times in accordance with the law and will not accept the pressures exerted by the Truth Commission.

Ex-Fighters March To Demand Compliance of Peace Agreements

PA2404164693 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Hundreds of former combatants marched on 23 April to demand implementation of plans for their return to civilian life. Thousands of former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] fighters have not been included in reinstatement plans, and they are demanding implementation of the agreements. This march was held in addition to the one staged by the Armed Forces disabled veterans on 22 April, who demanded compensation benefits as prescribed by law. During the 23 April march, former FMLN Commander Hector Martinez reported that the National Reconstruction Secretariat [SRN] intends to commercialize funds earmarked as loans for the former combatants. Hector Martinez said that the loans are offered at an interest rate similar to that charged by commercial banks. He said that the former combatants demand that the loans be granted at a 6 percent interest rate.

[Begin Martinez recording] The reason for coming here is, first, to ensure that the SRN complies with the peace agreements signed in Chapultepec, Mexico. One of our demands is the delivery of lands to former combatants and to previously established communities. Another of our demands is the availability of loans for our former combatants. These loans are being offered at current market interest rates. We believe that this is unfair. We are demanding that the interest rate be set at 6 percent. It is at that rate that we can aspire to these loans. The government is asking us to present a property deed before granting a loan. But if no land has yet been transferred to the combatants, then it becomes difficult to get loans. We believe that the loans should be granted upon presentation of demobilized ID cards, which is one of our main demands. That is one demand. The other follows the recommendations of the Truth Commission. [end recording]

The former FMLN leader and guerrilla said that statements by the SRN Director Norma de Dowes are purely electoral propaganda. The director said that the reinstatement plan has been fulfilled and has benefited a large number of former combatants. Hector Martinez called on Mrs. Dowes to be more responsible in her statements, and not toy with reinstatement plans for former FMLN and Armed Forces combatants. Protests by the Armed Forces soldiers and FMLN combatants have increased lately because, according to the fighters, the government has created obstacles to the completion of reinstatement plans as included in the peace agreements.

Guatemala

Salvadoran, Honduran Charged With Gunrunning

PA2404230193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Apr 93 p 27

[Text] The National Police [PN] Press Office has reported the arrest of a Salvadoran citizen and a Honduran citizen, who have been charged with gunrunning.

The PN said evidence exists that a large number of weapons is being smuggled into the country through the "black market."

The accused are Honduran citizen Luis Fernando Rodriguez, 25, and Salvadoran citizen Oslan Alexis Barahona, 19. They were arrested shortly after an investigation was made between Jutiapa Department and the capital.

The authorities confiscated explosives, grenades, and ammunition for .60 caliber machine guns, which are exclusively used by the military.

According to the PN, the free traffic of people and vehicles through the Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran borders may lead to an increase in the illegal traffic of weapons and stolen vehicles.

The three countries, which comprise the "northern triangle" in Central America, implemented an experimental process between 1 and 15 April to verify the benefits that may be obtained from free traffic.

Moreover, PN sources said former Salvadoran guerrilla fighters are reportedly responsible for the common crimes that have been perpetrated for the last two months along the border between Guatemala and El Salvador, particularly in Jalpatagua, El Coco, Comapa, and Ciudad Pedro de Alvarado.

Holdups, thefts, and murders have been reported in these areas. The culprits are reportedly former members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front who are at large now that peace has been achieved in that country.

According to the investigation, at least six persons have been killed within the last 60 days in Jutiapa, located on the Salvadoran border, the PN said.

The authorities said border surveillance has increased between Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras to prevent more gunrunning, violence, and deaths.

Honduras

Callejas Says Meeting With Central American Presidents 'Positive'

PA2404231693 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Apr 93 p 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Nicaragua's adherence to the process through which customs will open and people and merchandise will have free transit as of 1 May was one of the agreements reached by the Central American presidents, except the Costa Rican president, during the meeting held on 22 April in Managua.

President Callejas said on his return to Honduras that the meeting was positive because it has given Central America's economic integration a larger scale impulse and confirmed resolve to keep the borders open for the free transit of persons and merchandise.

Callejas said that Nicaragua expressed the resolve to join Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in the effort to consolidate political and economic alternatives for Central America.

According to Callejas, as of 1 May every aspect of trade with Nicaragua will be totally open; the same will hold true as of 1 July for products that receive special treatment because of limitations established in previous agreements.

The president pointed out that Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro has been formally apprised of the lawsuit involving the Sandinist Navy's capture of 14 Honduran boats in the Gulf of Fonseca. He said that a bilateral commission will be formed to prevent such actions.

The issue must be resolved through dialogue to avoid confrontations or any harm to nationals, he said.

Callejas said that during the meeting the Central American presidents also discussed the coffee issue and signed an agreement whereby Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier would join in the search for alternatives for the problems resulting from low coffee prices.

With this agreement, options will be sought first in the Central American region, including Panama, and then in Brazil and Colombia to improve and stabilize the production of coffee, which on the isthmus alone has recorded losses of over $400 million annually.

Regarding Costa Rica's participation in the integration process, Callejas explained that the country's private enterprise is opposed to government participation in political integration, but strongly supports its participation in economic integration.

Following his trip to Nicaragua, the Honduran president traveled to Danli, El Paraiso, where he participated in events marking the 150th anniversary of the city's foundation. He declared Danli the capital of the Republic for 24 hours.

Callejas was accompanied in Danli by ranking government officials and local and departmental authorities, and he received an award for descending from a Danli family.

* Ad Hoc Commission To Reform Security Services

93CA0094B San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Rafael Callejas last night announced an accord to establish a high-level ad hoc commission that within 30 days will recommend specific measures to improve the security forces, strengthen the institutions of the Judiciary, and enable the Public Prosecutor's Office to discharge its functions thoroughly.

The commission, which will be chaired by the archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Monsignor Oscar Andres Rodriguez, is made up of representatives of the Executive Branch, the National Congress, the Judiciary, political parties, presidential candidates, the Armed Forces, and the mass media.

The accord, which has been described as historic, was hammered out after more than 10 hours of deliberations among the heads of the three branches of government, presidential candidates, senior Armed Forces officers, and the main owners of the mass media.

The deliberations began at 1000 hours at the meeting of the National Security Council; the presidential candidates and the owners of the mass media were invited in at 1500 hours, and then a press conference was called at 2000 hours to announce the accord.

At the press conference President Callejas promised that whatever measures the commission recommends will be respected by his administration and carried out immediately.

The accord reads as follows:

National Accord for Institutional Reforms That Will Guarantee Security and Social Peace in Honduras

The president of the Republic, echoing the concern that Honduran society has expressed in different ways concerning the problem of both new and old forms of violence and crime, has resolved to take whatever measures are necessary to punish those responsible for such crimes and to prevent criminal acts against individuals and society at large.

Given that Honduras has a government of laws in which the law must be strictly enforced and given that all segments of society must work together in order to achieve social peace, the president has met with the heads of the branches of government, with the National

Security Council, with the candidates for president of the Republic, with representatives of the leadership bodies of the legally registered political parties, with the legal representatives of the mass media, and with Monsignor Andres Rodriguez, the archbishop of Tegucigalpa and chairman of the National Commission for Reconciliation. After an in-depth analysis of these problems, we have come to conclusions of far-reaching importance for Honduras, which are embodied in this document. The above entails conducting a study of the sector that is responsible for protecting individuals and property, as well as taking administrative measures and submitting bills needed to organize government effectively so that the law can be enforced justly. What this means essentially is the reorganization of the Judiciary, the Public Prosecutor's Office, police bodies, and the auxiliary agencies of the Judiciary, and working to overcome the fundamental causes of crime, to battle against drug trafficking, and to reform the national prison system.

Pursuant to the constitutional powers that are vested in him and after consultation with the aforementioned sectors, the president of the Republic informs the Honduran people of the following:

A high-level, ad hoc commission consisting of the following members is hereby established:

One representative of the Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa and of the National Commission for Reconciliation: Monsignor Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga.

Five representatives of the Executive Branch: Dr. Jose Francisco Cardona Arguelles, Major General Lazaro Melanio Avila Soleno, Attorney Jose Maria Palacios, Major General Reynaldo Andino Flores, and Infantry Colonel Mario Hung Pacheco.

One representative of each of the accredited blocs in the National Congress: Licenciado Donaldo Reyes Avelar, National Party of Honduras; Licenciado Jorge Arturo Reyna Idiaquez, Liberal Party of Honduras; Dr. Carlos Alejandro Sosa Coello, Innovation and Unity Party-Social Democratic.

Two representatives of the Judiciary: Judge Rigoberto Espinal Irias and Judge Jorge Adalberto Vasquez Martinez.

One representative of each of the candidates for president of the Republic: Licenciado Jorge Omar Casco Zelaya, National Party of Honduras; Dr. Efrain Moncada Silva, Liberal Party of Honduras; Engineer Alfredo Landaverde, Christian Democratic Party of Honduras; Attorney German Leitzelar Vidaurreta, Innovation and Unity Party-Social Democratic.

Two representatives of the mass media: Licenciado Jose Rafael Ferrari Sagastume and Engineer Jaime Rosenthal Oliva.

The ad hoc commission will report on its work and propose solutions for the following issues:

A) Within 30 days as of this date, specific short-term and medium-term measures that must be taken in connection with the National Directorate of Investigation (DNI).

B) Specific short-term and medium-term measures that must be taken in connection with police bodies so as to fully guarantee the security of persons and property.

C) Specific short-term and medium-term measures to bolster the program to professionalize police officers and officials so that they have a statute that guarantees their job security, their apolitical nature, and their impartiality in discharging their functions.

D) Specific short-term and medium-term measures to promote the creation of new auxiliary agencies of the Judiciary and to strengthen existing ones.

E) Specific short-term and medium-term measures that must be taken with regard to the Public Prosecutor's Office so that it can fully discharge its functions as the defender of the law, safeguard human rights, and bring the actions provided for in the law to deal with crimes of public order.

The representative of the Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa and chairman of the National Commission for Reconciliation, Monsignor Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga, will serve as chairman of this commission.

In order to fulfill its mission the Ad Hoc Commission will have broad powers to investigate all matters relating to its functions. Ad Hoc Commission summonses or requests for information will be binding.

The Executive Branch will furnish the resources that the Ad Hoc Commission requires to perform its functions.

Tegucigalpa, 1 March 1993

Nicaragua

Alleged FPI Members Said Blocking Radio Ya Facilities

PA2504042393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0342 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Managua, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The transmission facilities of Nicaragua's Radio Ya have been blocked by a group of armed men, alleged members of the Leftist Punitive Forces (FPI), a source from the radio station reported on 24 April.

The Sandinist radio station went off the air at 1800 after four individuals—three wearing police uniforms and one in civilian clothes—entered the station's office in southern Managua, the source added.

The FPI is a clandestine organization linked to the left and it is led by Frank Ibarra, a former member of the Sandinist People's Army. The FPI claimed credit for murdering prominent businessman Arges Sequeira in November 1992.

The Nicaraguan Police have begun investigations at the Radio Ya facilities. They believe there may be plastic explosives there that may detonate at the radio station.

According to the police report, four armed men attacked the guards at the radio station, gagged them, and later reportedly placed the explosives.

Radio Ya has nationwide coverage and the largest audience in Managua. The radio will mark its third anniversary on 26 April.

'Assault' Viewed

PA2604033993 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Commentary by Ada Luz Monterrey, director of "The Drumbeat" newscast]

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, have you received today's BARRICADA? This is for those of you who have not gotten it yet and for our brothers on the Atlantic Coast and other parts of Nicaragua, because we know that Radio Sandino covers the entire nation. The front page headline of the 25 April BARRICADA states: Its director is threatened with death. [Radio Ya Director Carlos Jose] Guadamuz accuses Sandinist leaders. The FPI [Leftinist Punitive Forces] attacks Radio Ya. Attack on transmission facilities for airing advertisements of [Managua Mayor Arnoldo] Aleman.

They say that an FPI commando group on 24 April seized by assault the transmission facilities of Radio Ya to leave a clear death threat for Radio Ya Director Carlos Guadamuz and to take the station off the air.

According to Alberto Guadamuz, an employee of the Radio Ya transmission plant, three men arrived—one of them dressed in a police uniform with the rank of subcommander—at 1800, saying they wanted to search the facilities because some suspicious individuals were in the area.

Carlos Jose Guadamuz' photograph also appears [in BARRICADA]. Carlos Guadamuz stated that they have been receiving threats for a month and a half, when they started airing advertisements for the Managua Mayoralty on the Double Play Program of our dear friend, Edgar Tijerino. That program is sponsored by the Managua Mayoralty. Carlos Jose Guadamuz recounted: They told us that if we did not stop those advertisements, we would pay the consequences.

Carlos Jose Guadamuz explained that there is an agreement—which by the way Radio Mujer [owned by Ada Luz Monterrey] has also signed—between the Nicaraguan Radio Broadcasters Association, ANIR, and the Nicaraguan Organization of Advertisement Agencies, ONAP. Even though he did not reveal the name, Carlos Guadamuz accused an active member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of threatening him several times since the radio station began broadcasting the mayoralty's advertisements.

The assailants also told the workers at the transmission facilities: You are not to blame for this. This is only for Guadamuz. This is the last warning we will give him. If he continues to play along with Aleman and those people, he will wind up like Arges Sequeira [president of the National Federation of Owners of Confiscated Property murdered in 1992].

Oh, my hands and feet are shaking! Oh please! I think it is the FPI men who are acting irrationally. They also sent me a letter once and called me on the telephone to threaten us.

First of all, we have to be very clear. What happens is that, unfortunately, during every government that has existed in Nicaragua the people forget that they are the real owners of the country's assets and that the government officials are only the administrators of those assets. The officials are not the owners of the nation's assets. Unfortunately, each government uses them as if it owns them.

In this case, for example, Arnoldo Aleman Lacayo is not the owner of the money collected by the Managua Mayoralty. We, who pay taxes, are the real owners. Our money pays for projects. That money does not come from Arnoldo Aleman's pocket. No project undertaken by the government is financed by money from the officials' pockets but from our money.

I remember that during the Somozist times, [journalist Ignacio] Nacho Briones used to tell us: We have to take even the shirts off the Somozists' back because what they had was not obtained with their money.

In this case, as ANIR members—Radio Sandino Director Conrado Pineda is ANIR vice president—we publicly condemn this attack on Radio Ya.

We insist, if the attackers are going to be doing these things, why don't they go attack the newspapers? Doesn't BARRICADA, EL NUEVO DIARIO, EL SEMANARIO, and others publish advertisements [for the Managua Mayoralty], advertisements which are not for Aleman. It would be a different story if they were conducting political campaigning for Arnoldo Aleman. They publish advertisements. I have not aired the advertisements here because I have not wanted to do so, but the day I decide to do it, I will air on "The Drumbeat" program advertisements from the mayoralty announcing different activities or changes in office addresses. And why not? That does not mean we are campaigning.

I repeat, that used to occur frequently during Somozist times. You would be given an advertisement....[changes thought] I remember Orlando Montenegro had an advertisement on "The Drumbeat" and I criticized the mayoralty and the advertisement was canceled immediately. That is how journalists show their principles and earn respect. If you do not like to be criticized, cancel the advertisement or keep your advertisement but you will not buy me with an advertisement. Unfortunately, there are many who sell themselves for an advertisement and

even give up their principles. They sell out. This is the journalism that can be bought and it has increased in Nicaragua.

It is very different that the Managua Mayoralty-....[changes thought] Let us turn to Radio Gueguence, which is also an ANIR member. It has a number of programs sponsored by the Managua Mayoralty and not by Arnoldo Aleman.

There are also some rightist media that are evidently being paid and something is demanded in return, but I am sure that no Sandinist media will give us an advertisement and demand that we keep it secret. In any case, I would also say: We are between a rock and a hard place with this situation of polarization. The Sandinists do not give me advertisements. The [words indistinct], Multicambio, and a number of Sandinist firms like the Santo Domingo Distributing Company and the Multitienda do not give me advertisements. I do not have a single advertisement from the Sandinists. The only advertisement I have is for BARRICADA, and that is because it is an exchange.

LA PRENSA will launch an advertising campaign shortly. For the past year we have been giving the listeners a summary of the content of LA PRENSA, the same as we do with BARRICADA. Information is information. It would be different if I started saying: What a marvelous newspaper! No, I just read what LA PRENSA is carrying and that is it. This is freedom of expression and the listener has a right to it.

So, if we are going to be seeing political vengeance or the pressuring of journalists because they carry advertisements for some institutions, then we are on a very bad path. [passage omitted]

Alleged Plan To 'Ambush' President Chamorro Examined

PA2504003793 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Apr 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Oscar Merlo]

[Text] La Concepcion—Former members of the counterrevolution with links to extreme right-wing politicians plan to take President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro "hostage" [secuestrar] on 25 April while she is in the home of a man named Eslaquitt, who will offer a welcoming toast.

Sources with links to the Political Opposition Alliance-National Opposition Union in La Concha told EL NUEVO DIARIO that the goal of Managua right-wing politicians, in collusion with right-wing politicians in this city, is to create an international scandal that will tarnish Mrs. Chamorro's image on the eve of the much-publicized "national dialogue."

Alfredo Cesar was seen in La Concepcion on 21 April in Mario Casco's home. Casco is one of the persons involved in the "ambush" of the president.

It is understood that Mr. Cesar also met with Deputy Mayor Santiago Hernandez and Juan Francisco Miranda, politicians who side with [Vice President Virgilio] Godoy and also back former contras Omar Alvarez, Bayardo Hernandez, Norwin Hernandez, and Bertilda Arias.

These last four, like in the past, have recruited former Nicaraguan Resistance members from El Almendro, Rio San Juan; Rio Blanco, Matagalpa; and La Pinuela, Region 5.

Our sources told us that two bands have formed in La Concepcion: One led by Deputy Mayor Hernandez, who intends to sabotage Mrs. Chamorro's celebrations, and the other led by Mayor Irving Lopez, who holds a more moderate position and is willing to receive Mrs. Chamorro with all the "fanfare" she deserves.

Luis Bustos, of the Heroes and Martyrs Cooperative in La Concha, told EL NUEVO DIARIO that on 24 April armed people plan to take over the following settlements: Carlos Nunez, Heroes and Martyrs in Chipote, and the Roberto Carmona. In these places live people who were benefited by the previous government.

"It is true, we have seen strangers near La Concepcion, people who do not live there. The danger is that they are joining the local extremists," Bustos said.

He said that his group will attend the 25 April rally to celebrate Mrs. Violeta Chamorro's third year in office. "We are going to ask the government to take a definite stand on the land issue in this municipality," Bustos said.

Following the report by this newspaper on the "ambush" right-wing extremists have prepared for the president, police began an operation that includes roadblocks at several points on the highway to La Concepcion.

A police source told us that there is fear over various rumors circulating about possible homemade mortar attacks against the people who go to support Mrs. Chamorro.

"Anyway, we are prepared to stop any sabotage attack and we want to go on record that we will not fall prey to the trap of repressing agitators for the sake of repressing. But let it be clear: we will be alert," the source said.

Rebel Group Demobilizes; Armed Groups Occupy Towns

PA2204223193 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Report by Jose Andres Sosa from 5th Region]

[Text] Good morning. We are glad to report that Commander Raul Machado, alias Estrella, who led more than 300 men in Camoapa Municipality, demobilized on the afternoon of 21 April. The disarmament brigade and Gonzalo Molina, the delegate for the Government Ministry, were present for the event. Estrella said that he and the majority of his men will now carry out agricultural work. He managed to get his men a plot of land. He also said that he will travel to the United States.

Meanwhile, more than 100 heavily-armed men have occupied Mulukuku. The group is demanding compliance of previous agreements. In addition, there is another group of armed men in the town of San Jose de la Vega, about 45 km from Boaco municipality, according to reports by the police commander in the region.

Second Provincial Council Calls For 'Urgent' Dialogue

PA2404175393 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Apr 93 pp 1, 14

[Article by Juan Carlos Sarmiento]

[Text] Matagalpa—The 5th Session of the Second Provincial Council has ended at La Cartuja spiritual center with an urgent call for a dialogue, stating that "should this fail, it could lead Nicaragua to unforeseen consequences."

In a message made public on 22 April, Catholic Church leaders urge seeking the common good of the nation, correcting past injustices, and setting aside all personal and party interests.

After expressing regret over the wave of attacks, thefts, and kidnappings, and pointing to armed groups that stage attacks in rural and urban areas, the bishops urged the citizenry to report these actions, and the authorities to use all available means to stop this deplorable situation.

Flanked by Monsignor Leopoldo Brenes and Bosco Vivas, bishops of Matagalpa and Leon, respectively, Cardinal Miguel Obando emphasized the need to establish the so-called State of Law.

Both Brenes and Vivas agreed that "dialogue should be preceded by actions such as granting bank credit to farmers who till the land and who could help us emerge from the deadlock in which we exist."

Cardinal Obando spoke about the situation at the National Assembly, which he feels "will continue to create tensions. I believe the National Opposition Union and the Sandinist Front deputies must hold discussions to reach a consensus."

Regarding the Tripartite Commission's work, the prelate said that it is very limited in dealing with human rights' violations of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and of the Sandinist People's Army.

Referring to the economic situation, he said that it is necessary to see "how sources of employment are being generated and not just to live from donations that come into the country. I have always said that all the aid that reaches us must be invested in the Nicaraguan people," Cardinal Miguel Obando concluded.

* Pallais on Unresolved Crime Cases

93CA0092A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Mar 93 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais by Jose Davila Membreno; date and place not given; first nine paragraphs are LA PRENSA introduction]

[Text] The Tripartite Commission (government, church, and CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission]-OAS) has officially logged 627 political murders during the postwar violence, more than 90 percent of which remain unsolved, the deputy foreign minister told the interview section of the Sunday edition of LA PRENSA.

He added that the first 10 cases have already been investigated thoroughly, and that there have probably already been arrests.

"No matter who the culprit is, justice will be served, because impunity is a cancer on the rule of law, and the president wants to see this through to the end," avers the official spokesman of the Tripartite Commission.

The commission has found in its analysis that there is a direct relationship between polarization and political slayings. Pallais says that the commitment to society is to halt such impunity because no one can administer justice with his own hands.

"We will halt impunity with deeds, not words," the deputy minister explains in the interview, adding that this effort must be kept free from political manipulation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Pallais is also pleased with the broad cooperation that the citizenry, the church, the government, and the CIAV-OAS have shown in coordinating for this task. The interview follows.

On 25 and 31 August 1992 the Government of Nicaragua and the CIAV-OAS met to improve working arrangements that would prevent violence between the sectors that were involved in the civil war and want to rejoin civilian society. On 16 September 1992 President Chamorro invited Cardinal Obando and the CIAV to set up a tripartite commission to look into violence in rural areas over the past two years and appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais as her representative on the commission.

Seven days later, on 22 September, both Cardinal Obando and the CIAV-OAS indicated that they would sit on the commission. A letter from OAS Secretary General Baena Soares had authorized CIAV-OAS participation.

Today, with five months of work behind the Tripartite Commission, its official spokesman, the deputy foreign minister, explains to LA PRENSA its accomplishments and influence and the expected consequences of its final activities report, which it is hoped will put an end to one of society's most deeply felt problems: unpunished political murders.

[Davila Membreno] Could you give us some statistics about the political murders that the Tripartite Commission has logged?

[Pallais] First, a conceptual definition. We are looking into cases of what we call "postwar violence," incidents or murders with political overtones involving the principals in the recent war. We have logged a total of 627 cases, which have come to us from different sources, such as the CIAV-OAS report, human rights commissions, the police, etc. We have weighed this information and officially logged these 627 cases, which run from June 1990 to the present, March 1993.

Of the 627 cases, 179 have to do with the Nicaraguan resistance (former combatants and relatives).

[Davila Membreno] Is Colonel Enrique Bermudez one of them?

[Pallais] Of course, but this is a case where we are even bringing in Scotland Yard.

In addition to the 179 cases involving the resistance, there are 189 among members of the police and the military, 163 cases of peasants without a specific political affiliation, 129 of FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] members or sympathizers, 40 from miscellaneous sectors, 14 of union personnel (one is the case of Arges Sequiera), and 13 cases of UNO members.

[Davila Membreno] To what do you mainly attribute these murders?

[Pallais] There are several factors, including our history in recent decades. There is also a social factor and even a socioeconomic factor involved in impunity, but we have found that there is a direct proportional relationship between political polarization and these crimes. When polarization intensifies, these crimes also increase. According to our statistics, from October 1990 to February of this year we have had three "peaks" in the number of cases. The first was from October to December 1990 when the former combatants left the development enclaves and went back to their lands; when they found them occupied, a great deal of killing ensued. We succeeded in bringing down this "peak" in the early months of 1990 with the agrarian and disarmament commissions.

The second "peak" came in June-July 1991, when intense polarization led to the "recontras" [former contras who have taken up arms] and the "recompas" [former Sandinist People's Army soldiers who have taken up arms] (this was also called the "revueltos"). Fresh accords with these groups and the December 1991 amnesty brought the death toll down.

From April to June 1992, when economic aid from the United States was cut off and there was an echo from the previous political polarization, another "peak" occurred with the "third generation" of rearmament, which lasted until October 1992.

Then came the Tripartite Commission, which with its investigations in the countryside brought down the death toll from October to December 1992. It was rising again by January and February of this year, owing to the political polarization that created an atmosphere of confrontation.

We think that the work of the Tripartite Commission has served as a deterrent to continued murder. We have become convinced of the need to strengthen mechanisms for preventing impunity and to resolve the cases that have been logged.

[Davila Membreno] Have some of these cases been clarified now?

[Pallais] That is precisely the problem. We have to admit that there is impunity in more than 90 percent of the cases. Some nongovernmental institutions, like CENIDH [Nicaraguan Human Rights Center], did a sample of 250 cases and found that the level of impunity was 98 percent; in other words, out of every 100 cases, in only two of them were the guilty parties punished or was a trial begun.

This is too high a degree of impunity, because in the area of common crime Nicaragua's level of impunity is acceptable in comparison to other countries.

Our goal in the Tripartite Commission is to put an end to this widespread impunity. No one can mete out justice with his own hands, and no one who commits a crime can go unpunished. The president of the Republic realizes clearly that such impunity must end, that we cannot go on like this.

Impunity is a cancer on the rule of law. If the state does not guarantee respect for the law and peaceful coexistence, instability mounts, and one murder that goes unpunished leads to another. This worries us greatly.

[Davila Membreno] In what specific way are these cases being dealt with?

[Pallais] Well, of the 627 cases we have proposed conducting an in-depth analysis of 120, half of which involve the murder of former members of the resistance.

What we do is investigate each case thoroughly on site. We arrive there, study the background, talk with witnesses, study the police and judicial files, and eventually identify the culprits. In fact, you can even see them walking down the street as if nothing had happened.

We have already finished the first 10 cases. They are people from the resistance, and the murders have gone completely unpunished. In another 40 cases involving the resistance that we have analyzed, 90 percent have gone unpunished. We sent these first 10 completed files to the Office of President last week, and we are very pleased, because the president immediately ordered the Ministry of Government and the Attorney General's Office to take action and begin proceedings right away. The procedure is as follows: the Tripartite Commission sends the files to the Office of President with its recommendations. The Office of President either accepts or rejects the conclusions. If it accepts them, as it did with all of the recommendations in these cases, it orders the appropriate bodies to begin judicial proceedings to punish the guilty parties.

[Davila Membreno] Is there any way of finding out a possible date for the first trial or the first conviction in these murder cases?

[Pallais] I could not tell you exactly, but I am not ruling out that the first defendants may have already been apprehended. Hard work is being done, and the important thing about this is that for the first time, intensive, serious efforts free from political manipulation are being made in this regard, whereas the custom here has been to just say things, without evidence, trying to provide grist for someone's political mill. But now things are proceeding in earnest, because we are going to halt impunity with deeds, not words. People have to see that there is justice, and fear of justice is what can stop the killing.

[Davila Membreno] What might happen if high-level police or military commanders are among the defendants in the first 10 cases that you have now finished and that are in the hands of the presidency?

[Pallais] What we are after here is respect for the law. The president has said that we should see this through to the end and that the guilty will be punished no matter who they are. Otherwise, it could not be called justice.

[Davila Membreno] Is the government doing what it is doing because of pressure from the opposition parties, or is it part of a planned agenda?

[Pallais] If we are going to build a government of laws, impunity has no place here. The government saw that society at large was worried about political murders going unpunished. So we said to ourselves: Let us see how true this is; let us work hard and in earnest; let us investigate thoroughly, and if we find something, we resolve it and mete out justice.

Moreover, we know that all of the political forces here are demanding an end to impunity in these murders.

[Davila Membreno] But this has actually been one of the government's weaknesses, since there have been a number of international complaints about human rights, and in one way or another this has something to do with the issue of international cooperation....

[Pallais] Yes, but beside that you must not forget that this is a commitment on our part, an obligation to mete out justice, a responsibility to ourselves as a society to serve justice in order to guarantee peaceful coexistence based on respect for the law. We do not want such impunity to continue; there is no way we can have estate owners who no longer want to visit their estates because they are afraid of being murdered.

On the international scene, we have brought these first 10 cases before the Inter-American Human Rights Committee (CIDH) of the OAS in Washington....

[Davila Membreno] Might this committee hand down a judgment or a sentence?

[Pallais] No, because it merely resolves the cases that are submitted to it, but it is very important for the CIDH not only to know what we are doing in this area, the measures that we are taking, but also to make suggestions to us on how we can improve. We are interested in international transparency on this issue; we have nothing to hide. The people on the CIDH are not going to judge, but they can give us ideas about how to do things better.

We must not forget here that in Nicaragua there are structural shortcomings in meting out justice. There are legal problems. To begin with, we are working with a Criminal Proceedings Code from the year 1800, and although it is true that there have been reforms of police laws, they have not been matched by a judicial reform. There are powers here that the police had a short while ago, but judges cannot exercise them for lack of a comprehensive reform. The justice system is mistrusted; also, people are too poor to afford lawyers.

[Davila Membreno] How has the Tripartite Commission coordinated with the church and the CIAV-OAS in all of this work?

[Pallais] We, the church, and the CIAV-OAS share the same concerns. We work by consensus in the commission. There is good coordination, and we are pleased with the president's decision to order the commission's recommendations carried out.

[Davila Membreno] Will there be a final report?

[Pallais] Yes. It could be ready in three months or so. We have finished more or less half of our work. We have already gone through the most difficult stage, which is coming to terms on the work methodology and coordination.

The idea is that in the end, after analyzing the cases that we have logged, we should be able to extract the common elements and apply general norms on the basis of new concepts that can put an end to impunity.

[Davila Membreno] Is there anything else that you would like to add?

[Pallais] Well, I would really like to say, in concluding this interview with LA PRENSA, that there is a lot of

cooperation from people, from the nation, from society. The citizens have shown a great spirit of cooperation with the Tripartite Commission. Demonstrating great civic valor, they have even pointed out to us the murderers who are at large. We are optimistic; I think that we can put an end to impunity in political killings.

Coast Guard Captures Pirates in Territorial Waters

PA2404193093 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] An official Nicaraguan Government report states that fishing piracy by Costa Ricans and Hondurans has increased in the Nicaraguan Atlantic waters. In 1993, over 150 vessels have stolen thousands of tons of lobster and shrimp.

Furthermore, maritime sources have reported that 18 crews, which include 32 Hondurans and five Salvadorans, have been captured while stealing Nicaragua's maritime resources on the Pacific Ocean.

According to the Nicaraguan maritime report, the Navy captured the pirates in the Gulf of Fonseca, in Punta Lorena at the mouth of the Estero Real River.

So far this year, the Nicaraguan Coast Guard has captured 41 ships with 150 crew members of different nationalities.

Panama

Bomb Explodes at Arnulfist Party Convention Site

PA2404043593 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0403 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Homero Londono telephone report from Boquete, Chiriqui Province]

[Text] I have unfortunate news to report. It occurred moments ago in Boquete, which will host the Arnulfist Party Convention on 24 April. A Panamanian citizen was in the process of planting an explosive device at the site where the Arnulfist Party convention will be held when it went exploded and killed him. We learned the explosive device exploded near his stomach and he died immediately.

The identity of the person, who tried to plant an explosive device at the site of the Arnulfist convention, is not yet known.

We also learned this will not affect the event, the Arnulfists who are gathered in Boquete, Chiriqui Province, pointed out. President Endara is already there with his delegation. Everything is calm in Boquete except for this incident. We learned the Arnulfist Party convention will start at 1000 as scheduled.

Endara: Someone Trying To Intimidate Us

PA2404052693 Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 0428 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with President Guillermo Endara Galimany by station reporters Joel Rincon and Alexander Calderon in Boquete, Chiriqui Province—live]

[Text] [Endara] Good evening, this is the president speaking.

[Rincon] Good evening, Mr. President. This is Joel Rincon, from Radio Mia.

[Endara] How are you, Joel?

[Rincon] I am doing very well, Mr. President. I saw you this morning for a short while. Mr. President, we would like you to tell the nation what has just happened. Please tell the nation your impressions about the tragic event that has just taken place in Boquete.

[Endara] Actually, we do not know very many details. Everything seems to indicate, but I cannot confirm this, that a person tried to place a bomb. However, the bomb exploded on him, and he died. Right now, there is a corpse in the middle of the highway, on the road to the place where the [Arnulfist Party] convention will be held. That person evidently had a bomb close to his body.

We suspect that someone is trying to intimidate us, but there is no sense in trying to do that. We, the Arnulfists, are not intimidated by anyone. We have a very firm determination to hold our convention and it will be a peaceful convention. There will be lots of security at this convention. It will be a truly patriotic convention.

The party president has just announced that the convention will be held just the same; it will be much better than ever before, and we will not allow anyone to intimidate or scare us.

[Rincon] Mr. President, there was some concern about your safety and health, as well as that of your wife and the other persons with you.

[Endara] Everyone is doing very well. I am here with my wife, with [Arnulfist Party President] Mireya and her husband, Ricardo Gruber. Carlos Rodriguez is also here. Everyone here is doing fine. We do not know who died, but everything seems to indicate that he was the man who was going to place the bomb.

[Rincon] Mr. President, following this regretful event, do you have any special message for the Panamanian people and the members of the Arnulfist Party?

[Endara] Yes, of course. First a message to the Arnulfists to tell them that the convention will be held, and that now—more than ever before—we have decided that the convention will bring unity and will show that the Arnulfist Party is the party of the large masses of the people. There will be lots of security, which has been organized by the police. I have ordered the police to

provide security, and I have also ordered the Institutional Protection Service, the SPI, to provide security. In addition, the party has its own security units. Therefore, everyone will be safe, there is no problem. Everyone, come on over!

I want to tell the Panamanian people that we are going to have to prevent these types of actions in the future. These bombs and so forth do not lead to anything good. In today's case, it seems as if the terrorist himself was killed. That is regrettable, that is an unnecessary death.

[Rincon] Mr. President, to whom do you attribute this attack?

[Endara] There are certain groups, I would describe them as the groups who want to return to the past, who do not want to see an Arnulfist Party convention be held as it should be, in a massive manner, with a tremendous show of popular force.

[Rincon] Alexander Calderon, also of Radio Mia, is here and he wants to ask you a question.

[Calderon] Mr. President, could we then say that persons linked to the previous regime are the ones who staged this incident?

[Endara] Well, I cannot state that, and if I said that, it would be unjust. However, I have my right to suspect, and that is what I suspect.

[Calderon] Mr. President, we thank you very much for being so kind as to accept this telephone call from Radio Mia at this time of the night—it is past 2300 [0400 GMT]. To conclude, please say goodbye to our national audience.

[Endara] Good night, everyone, and we will see you on the morning of 24 April.

[Calderon] Good night, Mr. President.

Arnulfist Party President Comments

PA2404154493 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Arnulfist Party President Mireya Moscoso Gruber from Boquete, Chiriqui Province by an unidentified reporter on 24 April—live]

[Unidentified reporter] Good morning, Madame Mireya. What details do you have in Boquete at this time regarding last night's incident? Please explain.

[Gruber] Of course. Good morning. At approximately 2145 last night, an individual approached the convention site. He stood about 200 meters away from the door pretending to be drunk. A security guard asked him what he was holding, which apparently made him nervous. He was holding a grenade that he had already activated. Upon activating the device he became nervous and the grenade exploded on his body. Half of his body was blown away. I had been at the convention site and had left five minutes before this happened; I was on the way home when I heard the explosion. I returned to the convention site with the first lady to find the man lying in the middle of the street with his entire body destroyed.

It has been said—and this has not been confirmed—that he was a policeman because a note was found in his pants pocket that stated that if anything happened to him, X person was to be called at such a number. I am still waiting for a report to arrive for President Endara this morning.

We will proceed with the convention at 1000. Buses are arriving from all over the country. Now more than ever, the Arnulfistas are enthusiastic about the convention. We are willing to struggle for democracy; we are not willing to return to the past. There are people who want to return to the past, but our party will continue its struggle as it always has with its late leader Dr. Arnulfo Arias.

[Reporter] Madame Mireya, regarding the convention itself, many people who have been interviewed this week on RPC radio have disagreed on one point: the reforms. They say the current board of directors wants to perpetuate itself in the party's leadership and create a dictatorship. As president of the party, what do you say about this?

[Gruber] The individuals you mention seem to enjoy speaking on radio and television or for newspapers to gain publicity. They have not approached the party; they have not even approached me to ask why this meeting was called. The meeting was called to abolish two articles. According to a note from the Electoral Tribunal, if we do not hold an extraordinary convention, as of 8 May all our party's organizations would disappear and we would have to hold another ordinary convention. The party's board of directors and its consultative board decided that this would seriously harm the country in a pre-electoral year. Thus, we decided to hold today's meeting. It is not true that I am attempting to perpetuate myself; it is not true that I am a party dictator. I have managed the party's directorate in a very democratic manner. What I am trying to do is strengthen the party and make it go forward. Reports that I will remain at the head for five years are false. I will remain only for the rest of my term, which is another two and a half years. When the time comes to leave the party's leadership I will do so.

[Reporter] Madame Mireya, in view of last night's attack, have you received any threats regarding the 24 April convention's inauguration?

[Gruber] Two nights ago, convention posters with the photograph of Dr. Arias were posted at the party's headquarters in Boquete. At approximately 0030 three individuals arrived and tore down the posters as was customary in the past, and threatened that the convention would not take place on 24 April. This was reported to the police magistrate in Boquete but we did not think anything would happen. Apparently something was

being planned against us because the grenade was going to be thrown inside the building where I and approximately 500 people were preparing the room last night.

[Reporter] Whom do you suspect, Madame Mireya?

[Gruber] Pardon me?

[Reporter] Whom do you suspect?

[Gruber] At this time I cannot say who is responsible, but President Endara may have a full report within 45 minutes and he may disclose that information. At this moment I do not suspect anyone. The only clue we have is that during the vandalistic acts of two nights ago, some perpetrators were identified as battalion members from the previous regime.

[Reporter] RPC Radio has been informed that President Endara is with you. Could you call him to the telephone so that I can talk with him?

[Gruber] The president is still in his bedroom; he has not come out yet. Last night I spoke with him; I told him that now more than ever I would go to the convention. The president told me: Mireya, let's go ahead. Regardless of what happens we will attend the convention. If you want to call him later I am certain he will make a statement. Right now, however, he is in his bedroom.

[Reporter] Finally, Madame Mireya, RPC Radio listeners have called to ask if you aspire to be president.

[Gruber] I only aspire to continue working with the party created by my husband Dr. Arnulfo Arias and to prevent the disappearance of its doctrine. That is all I aspire to. I want to continue helping needy people for whom he struggled and sacrificed for so many years. This is my only aspiration. By the end of the year the party will choose its presidential candidate. There are many members who could be candidates and I will support all of them.

[Reporter] Thank you, Madame Mireya. I repeat that we would like to contact President Endara later or to have him call RPC Radio.

National Police Member Suspected

PA2404132093 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1234 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Report by Ciro Ortega from Boquete, Chiriqui Province]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Security measures have been intensified at the Arnulfist Party convention site. The identification of the person who attempted to plant the bomb has not been released; official spokespersons have reported, however, that he was a member of the National Police. The terrorist had the logistic support of persons who were inside a vehicle that fled from the scene. President Guillermo Endara has already said that the convention will not be suspended and that he will attend. There is tension in Boquete and people are nervous.

Public Force Corporal Identified

PA2404190493 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1707 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Juan B. Chevalier on 24 April stated that a Public Force member was the person killed when a bomb exploded at the site of the Arnulfist Party [PA] convention. Chevalier has confirmed the death of Public Force Corporal Gabriel Aguirre Guerra and added that Carlos Ivan Santamaria, a security guard at the convention site, was injured but is now out of danger.

[Begin recording] [Chevalier] According to his personal documents, the man who tried to plant the bomb was a member of the National Police and a former member of the Special Antiterror Service Unit [UESAT]. This can provide interesting clues as to who is involved in this incident. The investigation has been placed in the hands of the appropriate authorities and next the appropriate district attorney will take over. An autopsy is being performed on the dead man to determine the explosive used in the attack. The explosion was so strong that it severed the man's body in two. The coroner believes that pieces of the bomb will be found on the body. This could lead to more investigations.

[Unidentified reporter] Has anyone claimed responsibility for the attack?

[Chevalier] As far as I know, no one has claimed responsibility. I doubt anyone will claim responsibility for an incident in which a man was killed, even though he was a terrorist. This does not mean that because he is a terrorist he deserves to live [as heard]; I believe everyone deserves to live. If he blew himself up, well, I am sorry for that.

[Reporter] Minister Chevalier, will there be a purge within the National Police?

[Chevalier] A purge is constantly going on within the National Police. Most of the past attacks have been reported by policemen. The purge process continues. Just remember that it is very difficult to repair 20 years of disasters within the security forces in only three years.

[Reporter] Where was the policeman stationed?

[Chevalier] In Chiriqui Province.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Chevalier] I am not sure but I believe it was Puerto Armuelles.

[Reporter] Are you investigating [words indistinct]?

[Chevalier] Investigations are always initiated by the appropriate authorities and then continued by the district attorney.

[Reporter] Minister Chevalier, you said that his documents will give you some clues. Do you think other people are involved in this incident?

[Chevalier] Definitely. Something like this is not carried out by one person. There are usually others involved. No act of terrorism is performed by one person. There always has to be someone backing him. We found bank documents on the dead man with large sums registered. A policeman who earns $350 or $400 at most cannot afford to deposit sums like this [not further specified] in the bank. [end recording]

Endara on Pardons for 'Strictly Political' Crimes

PA2304204693 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Apr 93 p 5A

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said the night of 22 April that he will pardon any person from the former regime who is sentenced for "strictly political" crimes. He gave as an example the case of 510 corregimiento representatives who are accused of designating Manuel Antonio Noriega as chief of state.

"I think that in the sentences handed down on strictly political crimes I would grant a pardon. For example, if the respective courts sentenced the 510 corregimiento representatives, I would pardon them immediately," Endara reiterated during the inauguration of the Annual Conference of Business Executives (CADE 93).

Transportation Union Representatives Report Suspension of Strike

PA2404233793 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Apr 93 pp 1,50

[Report by Roberto Cubilla]

[Text] Transportation sector union representatives who coordinated all aspects of the transit strike that paralyzed vehicle movement throughout the country and was 95 percent effective reported at a news conference that the strike was suspended on 22 April.

The transportation union leadership decided to give the Executive and Legislative Branches "an opportunity" to renegotiate some parts of the bill proposal to regulate transportation.

As of 23 April, all transit movement will return to normal while conversations are taking place with the Legislative Assembly Transportation Commission.

At 2100 on 22 April, the announcement suspending the strike was made by the leaders of the Federation of Transportation Cooperatives and the Panamamian Central Organization of Transportation Workers (CPTT), the dominant organizations that gather all transportation drivers. In addition, they demanded that the Legislative Assembly appoint a special negotiating commission that would be responsible for evaluating workers' claims. They also demanded the suspension of second debate discussions surrounding the transportation regulation bill proposal. If these demands are not met by the Legislative Assembly, the transportation union announced the possibility of an "indefinite strike" that would start as of next week.

After stating that the strike received the support of nearly 100 percent its members, the transportation union representatives pointed out that the decision to call off the strike responds to the need of the Panamanian people to use public transportation.

The transportation union communique highlights: "We are aware that the main ones affected by these measures are the users." In addition, they requested "support from the Panamanian people for their just claims."

Some organized associations of public transportation routes from rural areas, particularly La Chorrera, Santiago, and David, added some local strike claims to the list of the National Coordinating Transportation Board's demands. They accepted the decision to call off the strike, however.

In the specific case of La Chorrera, the organized transportation associations of the route that connects the western city with the capital are opposed to the alleged government intention to grant 30 permits "to persons who do not belong to the public transportation sector in order to pay off some political favors."

According to the Coordinating Board of Passenger Transportation, the Legislative Assembly has not included the various groups' recommendations in the draft bill that regulates public transportation, currently under second debate at the Legislative Assembly.

The transportation workers are opposed to some articles that "allow the monopoly of this activity by strong private investments," as this would, in their opinion, harm thousands of Panamanians who make a living in this activity.

The request is to eliminate these articles and modify other parts of the draft bill, it was reported last night.

EL SIGLO States Support for Arnulfist Party

PA2404181693 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 24 Apr 93 p 2

["Forum" commentary]

[Text] As the minutes go by, the clock's hands seem to draw closer to the most difficult moment for the Arnulfist Party, which must face a crisis at its national convention held in the proud land of the Doraz indians.

On the one hand, there is the staunch position held by Madame Mireya Moscoso Gruber that has been spurred on by the well-known aspirations of Endara and both their followers, who want to adjust the party's statutes to allow the current directorate and convention members to stay in power beyond the first half of the decade that will end the 20th century.

This group's convention members would arrive on 25 April for a farce that would limit their role to submissive confirmation by six replacements for the currently existing vacancies in the party's directorate.

On the other hand, opposed to this dictatorial and humiliating handling of the situation, are many convention members who would prefer to exercise the sacred right to choose—of their own volition and initiative and from among many lists—the individuals to fill the vacancies.

For the Arnulfist Party's good and for the spiritual peace of that great fighter Dr. Arias, who worked for everything concerning popular majorities, EL SIGLO hopes for the victory of the group that supports the latter theory, thereby preventing the best student of the rainbow leader [Endara] and his honorable widow [Mireya Gruber] from murdering Arnulfism and giving it an honorable burial in Chiriqui.

Man Arrested for Allegedly Participating in Kidnapping of U.S. Missionaries

PA2404195193 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Iveth G.]

[Text] Members of the Darien Police Zone on 23 April arrested a man, reportedly a Colombian citizen, who allegedly participated in the kidnapping of three U.S. missionaries on 31 January.

A National Police report said Leonel de Jesus Usala de Rivera, reportedly a Colombian citizen, "carried no identification papers" at the time of his arrest in the town of Pucuru, located near the Colombian border.

U.S. missionaries Richard Tenenoff, David Mancken, and Marc Rich Grane—the last one of Peruvian origin—were kidnapped on 31 January by alleged members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who raided the Indian town of Pucuru.

The so-called 20 December Torrijist Patriotic Vanguard, a heretofore unknown organization, issued a communique claiming responsibility for the missionaries' kidnapping, claiming they were covert CIA agents.

The Police report stated that an Indian from the Boca de Cupe community identified the man as one of the "New Tribes" missionaries' alleged kidnappers.

The Indian told Police authorities the suspect was asking questions about the missionaries one day before their kidnapping. The illegal alien disappeared after the kidnapping took place. According to the Indian who identified the alleged Colombian citizen as a participant in the three missionaries' kidnapping, the man returned to the community 40 days after the incident.

Usala de Rivera was turned over to Police authorities in Darien, where he is being interrogated to determine the truthfulness of the charges against him for his alleged participation in the kidnapping.

Linares Expresses Skepticism on Extradition of Ex-Defense Forces Official

PA2504145793 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Apr

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares expressed skepticism concerning the extradition of former Defense Forces official Jorge Eliecer Bernal, since his lawyers could appeal the Costa Rican court decision.

The Foreign Ministry is waiting to see what happens with regard to the possible extradition of former official Jorge Eliecer Bernal.

[Begin recording] [Linares] As a lawyer, I can tell you Bernal's lawyers will appeal the court's decision, if not on 23 April, then on 26 April. The Costa Rican Fourth Higher Court will finally decide whether or not Bernal will be extradited to Panama.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you confident the extradition will really take place?

[Linares] In these cases, one cannot be confident or not confident. I will only remind you that in the recent Carlos Witgreen case, the 22d Penal Court in Lima also ruled in favor of Witgreen's extradition, but when the decision was appealed, the Supreme Court of Justice decided the contrary. In other words, when a court resolution is appealed, the Supreme Court has two options: to confirm or reject it. We do not know what the final decision will be. [end recording]

Bolivia

Government Denounces International Arms Ring

PY2304130993 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
15 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] The government on 14 April denounced the existence of an international network of arms traffickers that use the name of Bolivia and its Armed Forces as the alleged recipients of weapons.

According to a communique released by the Information Ministry, this illegal activity was discovered by the Defense Ministry's Intelligence Department. The documentation on the case has been submitted to the Attorney General's Office so that the appropriate legal actions can be taken to protect our national dignity.

The communique adds that as these illegal activities harm national prestige and violate UN resolutions on the limitation and control of the trafficking of weapons, the Defense Ministry has submitted the pertinent information to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, which has added the information to its own dossier on the matter.

The government stresses that at no time did it authorize the use of the name of the Republic of Bolivia for these criminal activities.

High-Ranking Officers Said Involved

PY2304170193 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
16 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Spokesmen of the High Command of the Armed Forces have stated that high-ranking military officers and government officials are believed to be involved in the enormous international trading of weapons in which the name of the Armed Forces has been used.

The sources explained that there are a considerable number of documents and names of high-ranking personalities involved in the controversial case that was denounced on 14 April by the Information Ministry. Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Oscar Vargas Lorenzetti has limited himself to saying that an investigation has begun.

The military sources stated: "The incident was discovered by accident some time ago. It has subsequently been confirmed by the intelligence services of the Armed Forces. It involves international arms trafficking in which the name of the Armed Forces has been used to benefit some criminals." The sources added: "A large number of government personalities and high-ranking military officers appear in documents pertaining to arms deals. It has not been established if these persons participated in the deals, because their names, and those of the military officers, could have been used by the arms ring."

The sources stressed that an investigation has started to determine [unfinished sentence as published] Vargas Lorenzetti declined to give details about the arms trafficking, simply stating that a defamation of the Armed Forces will not be tolerated and announcing severe punishments for those who are guilty of this irregularity. "This incident," the top military leader said, "is under investigation, and we have ordered a careful evaluation of everything pertaining to this crime. We will not allow the name of the Armed Forces to be used in incidents of this type. When we find them, the culprits will be punished in accordance with the law."

In an Information Ministry communique, the government denounced that a well-organized international network was trafficking weapons using the names of Bolivia and the Armed Forces as the alleged destination of the weapons.

The document stresses that the government has at no time authorized the use of the name Republic of Bolivia for these transactions. It announced that it will be up to the Attorney General's Office to look after the legal aspects and up to the Foreign Affairs Ministry to look after the international aspects.

Pointing out that "we are facing something really big," the sources interviewed by this newspaper explained that the first investigations carried out inside and outside the country reveal that the arms traffickers purchased their "merchandise" in Australia and sold it to Yugoslavia. "The case is fairly big. Our first steps in the investigation led us to Australia, where the weapons were purchased and where everything seems legal with the false papers of the Armed Forces and then to the lamentable civil war in Yugoslavia, as the place where the weapons are sold," the sources said. They stressed that nothing has been confirmed officially yet. While the investigation has advanced in some areas, in others it has not advanced very much.

They also said that a German citizen is presumably the head of the international ring that has plagiarized the name of Bolivia and of its Armed Forces to carry out the "multi-million dollar deal."

Antinarcotics Force Disbands International Drug Ring

PY2304181993 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
15 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra reported yesterday that the Special Antinarcotics Force over the past few days dismantled an important ring of traffickers allegedly led by Colombians in an unpopulated Santa Cruz province.

In a news conference, Saavedra said that the group was operating from a farm called San Jorge in Santa Cruz, exporting tonnes of cocaine to Brazil. He added that the main leaders were arrested in the antidrug operation.

"The operation was carried out near the town of Santa Cruz at a farm which belongs to Angel Sandoval. In this

great operation, 17 people were arrested: three Colombians, two Brazilians, and 12 Bolivians," he said.

Announcing that this operation was the most important over the past few months, he added: "This ran a drug-distribution organization in Brazil that operated through the exchange of goods. A total of 256 kg of cocaine sulfate, 2,800 liters of precursors, and other goods were seized."

His report states that the traffickers' organization had a huge laboratory that produced 250 kg of cocaine monthly and a strong internal security system.

The minister explained that Colombian Yamil Lincoln Flores (who is at large) was the chief of the disbanded group, and announced that detainees Masiste Flores, Omar Asebedo, and Hernan Cardona (Colombians), among others, were the most important leaders of the operations.

Antinarcoticss Officer Charged With Blackmail

PY2404012693 La Paz HOY in Spanish 16 Apr 93 Section 2 p 1

[Text] Santa Cruz, 15 Apr (HOY)—Lawyer Mabel Lopez has submitted to the prosecutor's office a case of blackmail against two Colombian citizens currently under arrest in La Paz after being taken there from this city. Lieutenant Colonel Toni Jairo Sanabria, commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) in this district, presumably asked for $100,000 for the release of the two Colombians.

According to the lawyer, the Colombians, Juan Guillermo Delgado Beltran, Passport No. AE-165068; and Gloria Isabel Granado Gonzales, Passport No. AE-165074, arrived as tourists in Santa Cruz on 8 February to participate in carnival. They were lodged in a hotel, and when they were about to return to their country on 22 February they were arrested by the FELCN and accused of being drug traffickers.

Delgado's father received a telephone call in Medellin from Santa Cruz in which the caller asked for $100,000 for the release of his son and companion, and he was told to call cellular telephone number 01393864 in Santa Cruz with his answer.

This caused lawyer Mabel Lopez to investigate the case, and initially Sanabria denied that the Colombians had been arrested, and there was no evidence of an arrest order in police archives.

Moreover, a report from the migrations department at Viru Viru Airport indicates that the two Colombians were arrested when they were about to board the plane to return to their country.

With the knowledge that Delgado's father, a retired doctor, did not have the $100,000, Lopez called the cellular telephone number to indicate that she would follow the case to the end and she would order a charge of blackmail.

It is known that cellular telephone number 01393864 is registered in the alias Pancho.

The curious thing is that following the legal proceedings by lawyer Lopez, the prosecutor authorized the release of the two Colombians on 7 April, but the Santa Cruz FELCN commander refused to comply with this court order, the reason for which lawyer Lopez presented a writ of habeas corpus before the District Superior Court. The court approved the writ of habeas corpus and declared Lt. Col. Jairo Sanabria, who was absent, in contempt of court. It was demonstrated in court that Sanabria was aware of the detention of the two Colombians.

Lawyer Lopez said that now, in order to justify the arrest of her clients, FELCN authorities "are inventing charges" against them by making them seem connected to drug trafficking crimes.

She said that if there is a court order to release the two Colombians, the FELCN must release them. She said she would travel to La Paz to try to obtain their release.

At the same time the habeas corpus court session took place, Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico reported during a news conference at the FELCN offices on two anti-drug operations in Santa Cruz.

He said that three Colombians, two Brazilians, and 11 Bolivians were arrested during the first operation and two Colombians during the second operation, which has not yet concluded. The under secretary did not give details of the case because the investigation is still under way, but it is thought they are the two Colombian clients of lawyer Mabel Lopez.

Foreign Drug Traffickers 'Intend To Control' Bolivian Territory

PY2404031193 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Anti-narcotics agents agree with the conclusions expressed some time ago in the UN program for drug control. Highly reliable sources told this daily that the spaces left by the so-called "narco repentants" and hundreds of small and large-scale drug traffickers arrested in the past few months are being taken over by "foreign mafiosi" who "intend to control the red zones within Bolivian territory."

"It is very difficult to assure that the most important drug trafficking chiefs in the country, at any criminal level, are Bolivians. Given the results of the interdiction and repression campaign, we are concluding that the essential drug trafficking motor in Bolivia is controlled by foreigners," the sources told this daily.

Regarding the current situation, Army General Edwin Peredo Camacho, retired, commander of the Special Anti-Narcotics Force (FELCN), said that it is suspected that Bolivian drug trafficking activities are being controlled by foreigners.

When asked during an interview with the Fides news agency (ANF) whether the drug trafficking gangs in Bolivia are being commanded by foreign criminals, Gen. Peredo replied: "By what we have heard, we believe so, and I think there are several nationalities involved."

FELCN Deputy Commander Rogelio Vargas ruled out the possibility that Colombian drug cartels were operating in Bolivian territory because "no conclusive evidence" has been found to support this.

"Bolivians may rest assured because there is nothing to this extreme situation," the FELCN commander said during an interview with this daily on 16 February.

On that date an international news agency reported from Lima that the Colombian drug cartels were transferring their laboratories to Bolivian territory as a result of the aggressive drug enforcement efforts of the Cesar Gaviria administration.

The news agency also reported the destruction of a small airplane transporting 500 kg of cocaine from Bolivia and Peru. It also reported on other operations carried out in Bolivian jungles against Colombian drug trafficking gangs. Despite journalistic efforts, these reports could not be confirmed by the Bolivian anti-drug authorities.

There is evidence of the presence of Colombian drug traffickers in Bolivia. In July 1992, the FELCN arrested two Colombian citizens accused of being members of the Medellin and Cali cartels: Jairo Zapata Zapata, and Celimo Andrade Quinteros, who is serving a 20-year sentence in Chonchocoro prison.

Vargas said that the Bolivian and Colombian drug trafficking chiefs exchange intelligence information. "If there is evidence, they will be verified and repressed by our patrols," Vargas said.

Interior Ministry officials on several occasions admitted the presence of foreign drug traffickers with serious plans to control this illegal business from Bolivia.

Gen. Peredo gave new details about an operation that took place last weekend [10-11 April] in Santa Cruz Department to dismantle an international drug ring. Twenty people were arrested during this operation, including Colombians, Brazilians, and Bolivians.

He said the ring was detected thanks to intelligence work carried out in La Paz and Santa Cruz. "It has been detected that they were transporting drugs, probably to one of the laboratories outside the city of Santa Cruz, and they were arrested before they managed to transport 256 kg of cocaine sulfate and more than 1,000 liters of precursors," he said.

New Radars Bought To Help in Drug Enforcement

PY2404204993 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] Bolivia by next year may control almost 80 percent of its air space, which currently is controlled by a secondary radar located in the El Alto airport. This Spanish-made radar has a very limited coverage range. It cannot cover beyond the Andes and part of the border with Chile and Peru.

Aeronautics Under Secretary Erwin Greminger yesterday said the purchase of six new radars, with Spanish and Italian credits, will guarantee a high percentage of national air safety, leaving only northern Pando and southern Potosi departments without radar coverage.

He said the FAD II [expansion unknown] credit includes the installation of four secondary radars in Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and Trinidad. The location of the fourth radar, which may be in Sucre, is still under study. The estimated cost is $2 million per radar.

The credit amounts to a total $20 million, which will be used to equip the airports currently under control of the Air Navigation Service Administration (AASANA).

Greminger said an AASANA technical team will travel to Spain next week to restructure the installation of the radio equipment, communications, and radar equipment.

The four secondary radars will be linked with the two primary ones that will be installed by the Bolivian Air Force in Santa Cruz and Trinidad. These two radars were obtained thanks to an Italian Government donation negotiated in the last three years.

Greminger said these two units are aimed at drug enforcement and will allow better control of Bolivian air space. They currently are being installed and are expected to begin operating during the second half of this year, the under secretary added.

A secondary radar allows air traffic control at different altitude levels and can determine the distance between a flying object and the airport where the radar is located, so that its arrival can be observed. It is a radar specially designed for civil aviation.

Secondary radars can only be used if an aircraft has a transponder that allows communication with the radar.

A primary radar, besides controlling altitudes and the direction of a flying object, also identifies aircraft. Given its characteristics, it is equipment for military applications.

The under secretary said that in case these radars identify an airplane that does not answer identification requests, interceptor airplanes can be immediately activated to guide it or to force it—in case it resists—to land at a nearby airport.

Greminger said the two primary radars are worth $8.5 million.

He said that with these radars and the agreements signed with the U.S. Government, Bolivian Air Force Pilatus airplanes will be armed to be able to intercept small aircraft engaged in drug trafficking.

Brazil

Franco Opens Cabinet Meeting, Outlines Economic Plans

PY2404180093 Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese 1339 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Address by President Itamar Franco before a Cabinet meeting at Planalto Palace in Brasilia—live]

[Text] Ministers of state, government leaders, ladies and gentlemen, young men and women: The nation wants the truth. Only the truth will deliver our nation from fear, discouragement, and preconceptions.

This nation has nothing to do with the pictures painted by the harbingers of discouragement, or by those who in masochist ecstasy build their own success upon repeatedly announcing calamities with respect to the troubles of our nation.

This nation is formed by men and women who, while modestly leading their daily lives, are reviving the grandeur of our forefathers.

We will strictly respect the Constitution and the laws.

My administration will no longer permit financial speculation based on the financial carousel of high interest rates. The savings of the poor, workers, the middle class, and entrepreneurs are untouchable.

The Central Bank will introduce the changes required so that the distortions of the open market [preceding two words in English] system practiced in Brazil may be corrected, so that it might begin operating as it does in other international financial centers, where the overnight [preceding word in English] market does not pay interest rates which are greater than the inflation rate. This is a firm decision.

If the value of money, which according to classical thinkers should serve justice, is perverted, the entire society is perverted.

In their concern with protecting their goods and their families, many people miss values that are essential in a civilized society. Corruption spreads, selfishness grows, desperation prevails among the weakest, and the crime rate grows.

I said at the beginning of my administration—and I am saying it again now—that this will be a government of all the people, not government by just a few.

I also said it would be an honest and open administration, subject to monitoring by our society.

At this meeting I am therefore proposing to Congress that it establish the office of the National Ombudsman General [Ouvidoria Geral da Republica].

The political philosophy that has been prevailing since 1930—and which in one way or another has been prevailing in our country for a long time—is that the state's role was to conduct the development process and arbitrate the conflicts between economic agents.

When a decision was made—pursuant to the new international realities—to remove the state from management of the economy, it was discovered that the state was no longer managing the economy. Some well-managed state-run enterprises were able to report successes, while other state-run enterprises reported losses. Private enterprise, often enticed into making quick profits, was not as private as it seemed, as it depended on governmental favors. In many fields, private enterprise was directly or indirectly subsidized by the state.

You gentlemen know how difficult it was for us to explain to our sincere allies—I repeat, our sincere, our lifetime allies—the reasons that moved us to privatize state-run enterprises like the National Iron and Steel Company in Volta Redonda, to promote its approval by Congress, and sanction laws like the law on ports. It needs to be said that we only agreed with privatization when we noted the creative allocation of their resources and funds to finance science and technology, invest in health and public security, and amortize the domestic debt, with a consequent decline in inflation and a resumption of growth.

We will pursue the privatization process without giving up the majority control of the shares of strategic enterprises as they are defined by the federal Constitution.

It is necessary for society to understand the circumstances surrounding my administration, which began as a provisional administration and was only confirmed on 29 December.

Our initial concern was to rebuild the ruins of the state. The nation had been astonished and saddened by disclosures.

And it must not be forgotten that it was only this month that we were able to have a budget—which, nevertheless, is unrealistic.

This administration did not invent inflation or recession, much less the corruption that has ruined our country. Only dishonest people may accuse this administration of inertia. This administration did more things more seriously than most people might imagine. The ministers know this and must convey this to Brazil.

We are aware of the fact that, prompted by a sense of duty, we must begin a better time for our people.

This willingness to regain our national state's dignity must be made effective through the passage of laws.

I will not shy away from my responsibility as head of state to cooperate in the constitutional revision process that will begin soon.

The independence of the three branches of state, which I respect and will always respect, does not prevent me from suggesting to Congress, through the government leaders, the changes that my experience in conducting the executive branch recommend to me.

In passing the microphone to the economy minister, Dr. Eliseu Resende, I want to announce to you a measure I deem important. I have made a decision to reduce the import duties on medicines. This will be negotiated for the benefit of consumers, and will also include private consumers, safeguarding our national production interests.

We are taking this measure against those who abuse price freedoms. Other similar measures might be taken if the government is required to do so to protect the lives and health of Brazilians.

Economy Minister Announces Government Program

PY2404185293 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] The government action plan was divided into three parts: An economic stabilization program, a program granting incentives to different industries, and a program to fight poverty and misery. The Cabinet meeting lasted a little over an hour.

All ministers were present at the Planalto Palace, including Planning Minister Yeda Crusius, who was a little late. Congressional leaders also participated. They heard the president give a short and direct speech against tax evaders and speculators. The president then gave the microphone to Finance and Economy Minister Eliseu Resende, who explained the government plan's basic guidelines.

The plan was divided into three parts: First, the economic stabilization program, including a 20 percent increase in federal tax collections during 1993, a 10 percent reduction in state companies' spending, a campaign to fight tax evasion and fraud, a broadening of the privatization program, a short-term solution to the foreign debt problem, and the administration of the internal debt by reducing servicing costs.

The second part of the plan includes incentives for different industries. It is centered on four areas. Agriculture: The plan includes incentives for cultivating basic food items and for the reactivation of supply programs of a social nature, and includes subsidies. Housing: The government will spend $2.6 billion to finance the construction of housing units for the middle class and poor people. The Federal Savings Bank will be strengthened, and financing regulations revised. Roads: The government will spend $590 million to repair roads this year, and will again impose tolls. Energy: The government will adjust public utility rates and will permit private sector participation in exploiting this service. The third and last part of the plan includes measures to fight hunger and misery. Here the government proposes granting incentives to basic industries such as civilian construction, and granting aid to small- and medium-sized companies.

Minister Resende said that the main thing is to recover economic growth.

[Begin Resende recording] Policies to stabilize the economy and to recover growth—which are a constant concern of government programs—are the nucleus of our short- and medium-term programs to fight the problem and confront this very important social challenge. [end recording]

President Itamar Franco guaranteed that savings accounts were untouchable. The president warned that he will no longer tolerate financial speculation. In practice, to eliminate speculation the government wants those who play the financial market to earn fewer profits, because he considers short-term deposits to be speculative. The government wants to give incentives to long-term deposits, such as savings accounts. How this program will be implemented has not yet been announced, and will possibly be decided at another meeting with bank representatives on 26 April.

At this moment President Itamar Franco is still meeting with ministers whose offices are located at Planalto Palace, except Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Justice Minister Mauricio Correa, who also are attending. They are analyzing the repercussions from the economic plan.

Federal Administration Secretary Luiza Erundina left the palace a few minutes ago. She said: I never felt so good in the government.

Communications Minister Hugo Napoleao said: Now at last the country will find the path to development.

Roberto Freire, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, already has begun negotiating the approval of provisional measures and bills the government will send to Congress. This is what analyst Joelmir Betting has to say:

[Begin Betting recording] The government action program ended up fulfilling all it promises. There were no shocks, scares, surprises, or confiscations. The program is harsh on the public sector and soft on the private sector. It tightens the belt in the federal area but concentrates resources in social programs to fight misery. The financial cleanup of the public sector encompasses public companies and includes a major offensive—as of May—against the evasion of taxes and social security contributions throughout the country. Prices will continue to be free and unregulated in the private sector, but

they will be supervised by a new economic defense law that has been drafted together with different industries. The government also will fight high prices with imports, just as is being done with medicines. Measures in the financial area on adjustments and corrections still are under study and will be issued within the next 40 days. The entire program aims at reaching an economic growth of 3.5 percent a year and at lowering inflation to less than 20 percent a month. We now return to Brasilia and Alexandre Garcia. [end recording]

Governors who came to Brasilia to show their support for the president said Itamar Franco has made a call to holy war on two fronts: The internal front considers adversaries all those federal, state, or municipal officials who want to spend more than what is possible. On the external front adversaries are all those who will no longer be able to earn undue profits and those who speculate in general. The president said in his speech this is a new stage. In the first stage he did not even know if he was going to be president. It was during 1992 when he was still the acting president. During the first months of 1993 he did not even have a budget. Now he has a budget, he has a government plan with three programs, and he has a plebiscite telling him that he has to take a president's attitude. The president will enter the following stages taking these new events into account. The first new stage includes ministerial reforms, and the second the executive branch's participation in revising the Constitution. Roberto Freire, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, left the palace a few minutes ago. He said he was celebrating something new in this government. He said: The government will now be able to fight inflation without recession, at last.

Governors React To Economic Plan

PY2504030493 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Statements by various state governors in response to the government economic plan announced on 24 April—recorded]

[Text] [Sao Paulo Governor Antonio Fleury Filho] It is more than just a plan. I would say the president announced a government plan. We must help curb inflation and also create more jobs. That is basically the president's idea.

[Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes] Some measures are useful; others are not necessary. I cannot see how he will curb inflation. Honestly, I think they created very high expectations for such weak measures.

[Ceara Governor Ciro Gomes] I expected the president to adopt these deep measures. I certainly believe we must help him implement them because the austerity that is implied in the logic of this plan will be hard to sustain in the face of the monstrous pressures that will build up against it by privileged sectors that live at the expense of speculation.

[Parana Governor Roberto Requiao] The government must invest in the production of consumer goods. It must finance shoes, clothes, food, factories, low-income housing construction, and the production of home appliances that improve people's life, and it must increase salaries to allow people buy the results of this production increase.

Privatization of Angra I, Other Firms 'Out of the Question'

PY2204132993 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Apr 93 p 5

[From the Belo Horizonte bureau]

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero stated in Belo Horizonte that the privatization of the Angra I nuclear plant and of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] "is completely out of the question." "Angra I due to security reasons and the exclusive attributions of federal public power. [sentence as published] And only by altering the constitution can Petrobras be meddled with."

The suggestion to privatize these two state companies, the Vale do Rio Doce Company (CVRD), and Furnas [Furnas Electric Power Plants], was made by the Finance Ministry. "I view this news as an expression of intent made by the Finance Ministry's technicians, who, due to their concern over the public deficit, are trying to find a way to recompose the country's finances."

The minister stated that before thinking about privatizing, the government could make money by selling shares of some enterprises on the stock market. Cicero believes "there is nothing wrong" with increasing the placing of the shares of CVRD and its subsidiaries on the stock market.

"It is a very good mechanism that will allow the government to rid itself of the control of some enterprises. In the first place, because it will not have to make evaluations every minute that will always be objected to, and in the second place because the stock market does not receive rotten money."

Cicero believes that Furnas should also open up its capital. "Great care must be taken, because it is not the ideal formula to resolve the government's cash flow. Finance Ministry technicians believe that with the sale of Furnas shares they will be able to improve the Treasury's situation. But they forget that Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company], which has shares on the market, controls Furnas. Therefore, the income from the shares of its subsidiary will belong to the Petrobras shareholders. This is why the money that is obtained must be used in expansion programs for the country's electric system, not to balance accounts or to clear the public debt." Cicero said the government has not yet made a decision.

Chile

Preparations Under Way for Aylwin's Visit to Russia

PY2204202093 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Relay by German Gamonal from Moscow]

[Excerpts] The staffers of the Chilean Embassy in Moscow are preparing the details of President Patricio Aylwin's upcoming visit to Russia.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What about president Aylwin's upcoming visit?

[Jorge Guzman, Chilean General Consul in Moscow] The embassy—directed by our ambassador—is preparing for the president's visit, which is scheduled to begin on the afternoon of 2 June. The president is scheduled to leave Moscow on the evening of 4 June. We are in constant contact with Russian Foreign Ministry officials, the presidency, President Yeltsin's advisers, Russian Parliament members, Council of Ministers' members, etc. to arrange all the details.

[Reporter] Mr. Consul, what are the objectives of Aylwin's visit? Are they economic or political? What is the objective?

[Guzman] I would say there are two major aspects in connection with President Aylwin's visit. First, to promote political ties. The Russian Government is a new government that we have supported and that we appreciate. We are very closely following the democratization process under way in this country, just as Russia is very carefully watching the Chilean process. I would not say the Chilean process is an example for them, but they always take it into account. Chile's example is always mentioned in parliamentary debates and statements by top Russian officials.

Consequently, from this viewpoint, we can say that the president will come to complete a project that began in March 1990, when relations were reestablished. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The Chilean Embassy's main concern is the departure in a few hours of a Chilean Air Force plane—the second to come to Russia in more than 20 years—that will take back to Chile some 80 Chileans who were living in the former USSR. They are former scholarship students, workers, and some professionals.

This flight is being made with the support of the United Nations, the Foreign Ministry, and the Office for the Return of Exiles, which is directed by Jaime Esponda, who talked with the Chileans, who are now staying at (Ismailovo) Hotel, the world's largest hotel, from which we released this relay for Radio Chilena listeners. [passage omitted]

Chileans Return From Russia to Resettle

PY2304212193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Report by Williams Rebolledo from Santiago International Airport]

[Excerpts] After a 22-hour return flight aboard a Chilean Air Force plane, about 60 Chileans, who were returning from Russia, had mixed emotions upon arriving at Santiago International Airport today. [passage omitted]

We have already mentioned that some of these Chileans, who are returning, had some fears. This fear, however, is dispelled by Jaime Esponda, director of the office for returning Chileans [Oficina de Retornos], who talked with Radio Chilena at the Santiago International Airport terminal.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Rebolledo] ... for Radio Chilena. How was your trip? Mission accomplished?

[Esponda] Mission accomplished in one way only, namely carrying out this special operation, because it had to be done this way. These fellow countrymen requested a quick return, and this was accomplished with the invaluable support of the Chilean Air Force.

Nevertheless, now comes the most important part, which is reintegrating these fellow countrymen into our fatherland. The government, the state, is playing its role through the various laws and administrative measures that it has issued, such as the law on authorization of professional degrees, the customs law, free access to all types of health care, the living allowances, the possibility to continue schooling, and so on.

Nevertheless, it is also appropriate for residents of Chile to appreciate this extraordinary professional asset arriving in our country and that is joining many other professionals who have already arrived. [end recording]

The Chileans who returned from Russia aboard the Chilean Air Force Boeing 707 airplane were accompanied by Ambassador Eduardo Ormeno; high-ranking Foreign Ministry official Jose Luis Leon; the director of the office for returning Chileans, Jaime Esponda, who talked with Radio Chilena; and, of course, our journalist German Gamonal, who is already preparing a surprise program on life in Russia, on events in Russia, and you will soon hear this program during Radio Chilena broadcasts.

Colombia

'Pepes' Announce Dissolution in Communique

PA2404183993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Attention, we have last minute news. The Persecuted by Pablo Escobar, Pepes, have just released a communique in Medellin stating that they are dissolving

their terrorist group. The Pepes said they are disbanding due to the government's actions against Pablo Escobar.

Prosecutor General Praises Decision

PA2604011093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Gustavo De Greiff, the prosecutor general of the Republic, on 24 April said it is great that the Persecuted by Pablo Escobar [Pepes] group is quitting its activities. But he warned that investigations will continue to determine the identity of the leaders and capture them. He also asked the government to continue with the reward campaign to obtain information on that vigilante group.

The criminal capacity of Pablo Escobar has not been reduced to a minimum, De Greiff said on 24 April. The high-ranking official thus denied the report by the clandestine Pepes group and warned that there is a possibility of new terrorist attacks by the Medellin Cartel.

[Begin De Greiff recording] I do not agree that Pablo Escobar's capabilities have been reduced to a minimum. I believe he has been hit harshly, but the authorities must continue to hit his organization. [end recording]

He said that once the Pepes group has been dissolved, the Prosecutor General's Office and the Attorney General's Office will continue investigating to determine the identity of the chieftains of that organization and turn them over to justice.

[Begin De Greiff recording] Yes, that is right. We hope to be successful in our investigations, either because we receive pertinent information or because we find clues or evidence. [end recording]

De Greiff also hopes the authorities have closed in on Pablo Escobar. He reported that the state intelligence organizations have received important reports on Pablo Escobar from individuals who in the past belonged to his organization.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Do you think the authorities are inefficient?

[De Greiff] Yes, I think so.

[Reporter) Do you think they are inefficient because they have not captured Pablo Escobar?

[De Greiff] There is inefficiency throughout the entire country. [end recording]

Prosecutor General Gustavo De Greiff insisted that once the Pepes group is dissolved, it will be easier for the authorities to capture Pablo Escobar.

Medellin Authorities Welcome Decision

PA2604011293 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Medellin—The authorities have welcomed the announcement made by the clandestine organization Persecuted by Pablo Escobar [Pepes] that it is suspending all terrorist activities.

Antioquia Governor Juan Gomez Martinez feels that the decision might bring peace to the community, but he warned that the authorities must first confirm the authenticity of the communique announced on 24 April in Medellin.

I think the announcement will bring peace, and we harbor hopes that the Pepes will keep their word, because this type of private justice has only led to more violence, the governor added.

Medellin City Mayor Luis Alfredo Ramos Botero said the Pepes announcement brings relief to the situation prevailing in Medellin and in the Aburra Valley. Private justice must not prevail, and if the Pepes suspend their activities, this could contribute to consolidating peace, Ramos Botero concluded.

Paraguay

Private Poll Shows National Encounter Candidate Ahead

PY2304141493

[Editorial Report] Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish on 22 April, in a special 8-page supplement, carries unattributed articles totalling 1,100 words on the results of a poll carried out by the Arts and Communications Institute on behalf of the Private Communications Network. Less than 20 days away from the elections, Guillermo Caballero Vargas, candidate for the independent National Encounter Alliance, leads with 34.4 percent of the votes nationwide. Colorado Party candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy comes second with 27.1 percent, and Domingo Laino, candidate for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, comes third with 23.8 percent. The undecided account for 13.6 percent of the votes.

The rate of undecided voters increases among the lower income voters, 14.71 percent, compared with 11.2 percent among higher income voters. The difference between male and female voters is slight. Men have divided their vote among Caballero Vargas, 32.3 percent, Wasmosy, 28.6 percent, and Laino, 25.4 percent. Women divided their votes among Caballero Vargas, 36.84 percent, Wasmosy, 25.43 percent, and Laino, 22.02 percent.

In Asuncion, Caballero Vargas has 45.5 percent, Wasmosy 25.7 percent, and Laino 17 percent. In electoral districts with more than 15,000 voters, Caballero Vargas has 43.4 percent, Laino has 22.9 percent, and Wasmosy has 19.4 percent.

In voting districts with 8,355 to 15,000 voters, Wasmosy has 32.3 percent, Caballero Vargas 29.2 percent, and Laino 20.1 percent. In districts with 4,055 to 8,355 voters, Wasmosy has 30.9 percent, Laino has 30.6 percent, and Caballero Vargas has 24.7 percent.

As for party preferences, 46.8 percent of those polled said they were Colorados. This contrasts with the only 27.1 percent who said they would vote for Wasmosy. The difference in the PLRA is much smaller, since 25.6 percent said they were Liberals while 23.9 percent said they would vote for Laino. The process is reversed with Caballero Vargas, since only 19.3 percent said they belong to the National Encounter Alliance but 34.4 percent of those polled said they would vote for Caballero Vargas.

Of the Colorados polled, 56.7 percent said they would vote for Wasmosy, 21.9 percent said they would vote for Caballero Vargas, while the remaining 18.8 percent are still undecided.

Laino's support is composed of 95.1 percent Liberals, 1.5 percent Colorados, and 2.7 percent who do not belong to any party.

Caballero Vargas' support is composed of 53.1 percent from National Encounter Alliance members, 29.7 percent Colorados, 4.9 percent Liberals, and 10.1 percent do not belong to any party.

ULTIMA HORA Poll Shows National Encounter Candidate Leading

PY2404031393 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] A poll conducted between 11 and 19 April among 1,050 voters, at the request of ULTIMA HORA, demonstrates a great advantage for National Encounter Alliance candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas, who obtained a 40.1 percent approval rating. Meanwhile, his two closest competitors, Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Domingo Laino, each received less than 30 percent of the voters preference. Wasmosy obtained 26.3 percent while Laino obtained 24.2 percent of the voters preference. In a previous poll conducted by ULTIMA HORA, Laino was second after Caballero Vargas. The latest poll showed that 7.8 percent of the voters have not yet decided for whom they will vote. Of these undecided voters, most of them are Colorado Party sympathizers and more than half of them think that Caballero Vargas would be a better president than the other candidates. Regarding party preferences, the poll demonstrates that the traditional bipartisan system has been broken with the arrival of the National Encounter Alliance.

Gallup Poll Shows Colorado Party Leading Governor Race

PY2304220893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Apr 93 p 15

[Text] The Gallup company has carried out a national poll on voters preference for president, vice president, senators, deputies, and governors. In this edition we are presenting the partial results of the poll revealing voters' preference for governor in Itapua, Misiones, Concepcion, San Pedro, and Paraguari Departments. The Colorado Party is the winner in all, except in Concepcion Department, where the voters prefer the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA. The poll was carried out using the expertise and methodology used by the Gallup Institute internationally. It was done with the aid of Paraguayan experts, but it was thoroughly supervised, and the polling sheets were audited. In our next issue we will report on the results of the Gallup poll on the voters preference for president.

The partial results of the Gallup poll reveals that voters in southern Paraguay (Itapua, Misiones, and even Paraguari Departments) prefer Colorado governors, according to the charts. In Itapua, however, the main preference is for the National Encounter Alliance, although the percentage of undecided voters is high.

Another chart shows voters preference in Concepcion Department. If the elections were held today, PLRA candidate Oscar Denis Sanchez would win. This same phenomenon can be observed in La Cordillera Department, where voters also favor the PLRA.

Minister Criticizes 'Vested Interests' of Polls, Press

PY2304211293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Apr 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Ciudad del Este—During a tour of Alto Parana Department, Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche questioned the credibility of polls and said they all have vested interests. He added that none of the polls include military or police force members. He said all of them are Colorado Party members who will be a determining factor on election day. He also noted that the media are notoriously critical of the Colorado Party.

While a rampant crime wave is hitting this region of the country, Interior Minsiter Hugo Estigarribia and General Gregorio Trifon Lopez Prado, the Alto Parana government delegate, were campaigning yesterday in support of the [Wasmosy-Seifart] List No. 1. Estigarribia met yesterday with local Colorado Party mayors and presidents of local departament party precincts.

During the meeting held at the Ciudad del Este Colorado Party precinct headquarters, Estigarribia said that the Colorados "have been overwhelmed by a fierce opposition campaign and by some members of the press, which are notoriously adverse to the Colorado Party. This was done with the objective of undermining our support and blaming us for all calamities."

Estigarribia added that all the recent polls published in the press have "vested interests." He also said that "these polls do not even remotely include important facts that favor the Colorado Party." He said: "All police force members are Colorado Party members. They total from 40,000 to 50,000. Army members also have a right

to vote. They are Colorado Party members; there are over 30,000 of them. But these facts are not included in the polls."

Estibarribia also admitted that the 9 May elections will be very harsh. He said: "Our adversaries are running an excellent campaign." [passage omitted]

Peru

Navy, Air Force Commanders Support Army Chief

PA2304165793 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Apr 93

["Official communique" issued by the commanders general of the Navy and Air Force, and the acting director general of the National Police; from the Armed Forces Joint Command Headquarters in Lima—live; read by Rear Admiral Luis Sabanillas, deputy chief of the Navy General Staff]

[Text] The commanders general of the Navy, Air Force, and National Police—representing their respective institutes—offer their support and solidarity to Army General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios, commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command and Army commanding general, for his defense of the institutional prestige of Peru's Armed Forces and National Police.

They also express that under these circumstances, during which terrorism is being defeated, the law enforcement agencies are solidly united and disciplinarily subordinated to President Alberto Fujimori, president of the republic and supreme commander of the Armed Forces and National Police of Peru, and are firmly committed to offering their utmost capability and professionalism to achieve national pacification.

[Signed] Admiral Alfredo Ambrosiani, commander general of the Navy
Air Force General Jose Nadal Paiva, commander general of the Air Force
Lieutenant General Jose Sutabalqui, acting director general of the National Police [name and title as heard]

Defense Minister Addresses CCD 23 Apr

PA2304234793 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2218 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Speech by Defense Minister General Victor Malca Villanueva to the Democratic Constituent Congress, CCD, in Lima; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ...We must seek unity among Peruvians, especially among those who have the responsibility of leading the country. We all want to live in peace, with development and welfare for all Peruvians. The problems that emerge may be resolved by means of a dialogue with prudence, with moderation, and especially with respect for our ideas and convictions. This will lead us down the path of welfare, which the entire city and the country demand.

As the president of the Republic has said, the Armed Forces are the people. Allow me to say that its members are not precisely from the upper classes. We are, perhaps, the group that has felt the effects of inequality, poverty, and lack of education and health the most. With the National Police, we are from all corners of the country. How can we not support you, congressmen, who are the legitimate representatives of the national majorities? We and you long for security, tranquillity, and the country's welfare.

As the president said during his recent message to the country, on his 1,000th day of constitutional government, all Peruvians hope to make sense of their points of view by giving the solution of the country's largest problems the highest priority, instead of getting impeded by useless quarrels that lead nowhere.

The Armed Forces, as we have demonstrated as often as necessary, are respectful of the privileges and attributions of the branches of government. As the congressmen know, we have come here every time we have been called to inform you about issues. This attitude of respect has not changed and will not change. I believe that for the sake of the country's democracy, the waters must be allowed to settle, and I respectfully suggest that we forget this matter entirely. We are going to cooperate closely in the investigations being conducted by the commission. We are the first ones to be interested in definitely clearing up the case of the missing people at La Cantuta [concerning the disappearance of nine students and one professor from the Enrique Guzman y Valle University, also known as La Cantuta] because the public forces, and especially the Army, will closely follow the president's guidelines regarding the strict respect for human rights. Those found guilty of violating these rights will be punished.

Congressmen, we ask you to contribute to the improvement of the relations between the CCD and the Armed Forces in a climate of harmony and mutual respect, leaving behind verbal attacks that only lead to conflicts. There are very important duties and challenges surrounding the fate of millions of Peruvians. They expect us to find the best solutions by productive and constructive means.

As a political representative of the defense sector, which makes up the armed institution, on behalf of each one of the members of the Armed Forces, I give my personal respect to the CCD and each one of its representatives because they have the mandate of those who gave them the power, the Peruvian people.

The Army does not intend to conceal anything. We do not organize any political demonstrations or seek the disruption of the constitutional order in the country. If the statements given have led to the impression that we are offending the majesty, sovereignty, and independence of the honorable CCD, on behalf of all the members of the Armed Forces, I ask you, Mr. President and the congressmen of the Republic, to accept the

explanations as a show of our unyielding commitment to the constitutional order of the country. Thank you very much.

CCD Deputy Questions Minister

PA2404003093 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2224 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Statement by Lourdes Flores Nano, Popular Christian Party deputy, to Defense Minister General Victor Malca Villanueva at the Democratic Constituent Congress in Lima—live]

[Text] Mr. Minister, the improper and inopportune statements by the Army commander general have doubtlessly affected the return of democratic institutionality, which the country is now undergoing. This is seen both in Peru and abroad under basically two vital subjects: the authentic balance of power and the unqualified respect of human rights. It is precisely these two aspects that are affected by untimely statements when Congress, exerting its sovereignty, is beginning an investigation of human rights violations. Domestically, the statements by the Army commander general exceed the constitutional framework, because he represents a nondeliberating force. What is even more serious is that by placing himself in what appears to be a threatening stance, he questions the work of this Congress, he gives himself greater power than the president—a power he does not have. We Peruvians do not have to recognize the show of force of tanks circulating in the streets because the truth is that the most important, and I would say the only force we can value, is the morality of those who wear a uniform.

Mr. Minister, you have come here following the approval of an agenda motion presented in this parliament by opposition forces. You, as the person responsible for the sector, must answer for it. Furthermore, according to Article 7 of Legislative Decree 437, the Army commander general is your subordinate. Therefore, in the name of the opposition and because your intervention has not sufficiently addressed these topics, I demand, Mr. Minister, that you reply to the following questions:

1. Who are the congressmen the commander general presumes could be in collusion with terrorism, and what evidence does he have to reach this conclusion?
2. If this evidence cannot be shown to back such a serious charge, what actions have been taken or will be taken by you against the person who made such a charge?
3. In view of such charges, which translate to a veiled but obvious warning to Congress, what definite measures will your office take?

I ask these questions, Mr. Minister, not only because our upbringing has a vital principle, which is to show respect for oneself, but because above our own honor we have the investigatory task the people have entrusted us with. This is one of the most basic tasks—I would say a vital role—for those of us who form the opposition.

We therefore demand, Mr. President, a timely reply, and we shall evaluate the consequences of the acts that follow. We are performing our duty by addressing this topic and asking for these explanations. We must be aware that in this way we properly contribute to the return to democratic institutionality.

I would like, however, to end in the name of my party, recalling phrases that at one time made history and marked respect of the uniform, properly linked to civilian power. Parliamentary colleagues, 24 years ago, when inaugurating the monument to Castilla, the president of my party, said when paying homage: We pay homage to the man who is capable of saying and maintaining from his position in command his impartiality and his permanent respect of the law; to the man who from a position of power follows and obeys the law; the man who in 100 winning campaigns knew how to impose on himself not defeat, but the discipline of those who only reach power by respecting the law with his sword and ensuring the law is respected in a disorganized country. This is how we believe the men of uniform should do their duty to the fatherland and their constitutional duty.

Mr. Minister, obey and reply by doing your duty. Many thanks.

Defense Minister Replies to Deputies

PA2404014893 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0029 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Report by Ismael Byron Horna on Defense Minister Malca's reply to Democratic Constituent Congress, CCD, deputies—live]

[Text] [Horna] Defense Minister General Victor Malca Villanueva will now speak after a 25-minute recess at the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD]. He will reply to the concerns and questions that 10 parliamentarians made after the defense minister made a statement.

[Malca] I wish to say to you Messrs. Congressmen that when Gen. Nicolas de Bari Hermoza read his statement he stated: They apparently colluded. At no time did he state this as a fact. I think we can consider it as a hypothesis—perhaps a somewhat hasty one. It was n hypothesis, and he was referring to no one specifically.

If evidence cannot be shown to back such a serious charge, what actions have been taken or will be taken by you against the person who made such a charge? I met with the commanders general, and they in turn will meet with their subordinates. I told them—and we will have to continue repeating this—that each time they come before this CCD or make statements they should refer to concrete facts that can be supported, and not to hypotheses or lucubrations.

In view of such statements, which constitute a veiled warning to the CCD, what concrete measures will your office adopt? Although it seems this problem has been

settled, I wish to point out that—as you demanded at the previous congress that the forces of order respect human rights—we will issue instructions to everyone to ensure they know the CCD is autonomous and independent....

[Horna, interrupting] That was Defense Minister Victor Malca Villanueva. He replied to the questions made by 10 congressmen during his appearance at the CCD to clarify statements made by Gen. Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command. The Defense Minister left the CCD moments ago for his office. The opposition is somewhat confused and displeased with his statements, which were not what they expected. The defense minister did not reveal the names of the congressmen, who are apparently, as his report states, linked to subversion. He also failed to present the corresponding evidence against those parliamentarians.

The parliamentarians who posed questions to Minister Malca are waiting for a statement by CCD President Jaime Yoshiyama. After his reply, Defense Minister Malca reaffirmed that there is no confrontation between the Peruvian Army and branches of state. He also reaffirmed the Army respects the autonomy of state branches and that there was never an intention to issue threats to undermine and obstruct CCD investigative duties.

Rules Out Congressman-Subversive Link

PA2404025993 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0205 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Malca by unidentified reporter in Lima on 23 April]

[Text] The theory that congressmen are allegedly linked to subversives has been totally ruled out, according to Defense Minister Victor Malca Villanueva, after speaking to the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD].

Victor Malca said the relations between the Army and the Legislative Branch are good.

[Begin recording] [Malca] I believe relations between the CCD and the Armed Forces have not deteriorated. I made it very clear on 22 April when I met with the CCD president. I do not believe these types of problems between the Armed Forces and the CCD should exist.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] because of the statements made by the commander general?

[Malca] Strong statements were sometimes made, not only by the commander general, but by some congressmen as well. I believe we must all understand that we have to contribute our share to prevent this from happening.

[Reporter] Will the government consider taking any action against General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios?

[Malca] No, not at all. I do not know why you ask me that question.

[Reporter] He evidently committed an offense.

[Malca] There has been no offense committed. He has defended the integrity of the Armed Forces. He is the one in charge of the internal sector and he has to protect the lives of the people who are under him.

[Reporter] Have you ruled out the possibility that a congressman may be playing along with the subversives?

[Malca] No, no, that has been ruled out. This theory has been ruled out.

[Reporter] Will the investigation of the La Cantuta case continue, General?

[Malca] Yes, it will continue. You know the commander general has already filed the charges at the proper courts. The Prosecutor General is also investigating and the special commission is doing its work. As I told the CCD, the Army is under the obligation of providing all the information needed by this special commission so the work can be done. [end recording]

Fujimori Interviewed on 1,000 Days in Office

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["Exclusive" interview with President Alberto Fujimori by News Director Ricardo Muller in Lima—live]

[Text] [Muller] President Alberto Fujimori is here with us. Good evening, Mr. President. We thank you very much for being here.

[Fujimori] Good evening. It is my pleasure to be here.

[Muller] One thousand days have passed since your administration took over. Allow me to say that of these 1,000 days, the last few have been very tense.

[Fujimori] Practically the entire 1,000 days have been intense. It has been nearly a struggle; the struggle of the 1,000 days. In reality, this is the way things have happened. To this we must add a very unfavorable condition because Peru was practically in a shambles, mortgaged, facing enormous problems. We started from a loss and from here we have had to overcome obstacles. To do this, we have been forced to work expeditiously and live intensely. We have faced a series of problems. This has been a period of struggle and sacrifice.

[Muller] Do you predict that we will not only win a battle but that we will win the war?

[Fujimori] It can be observed that we are winning the first battles. For instance, look at terrorism and isolationism. Both problems have been faced courageously and we have overcome them.

[Muller] By the way, Mr. President, regarding pacification, no one can deny significant progress has been made in the struggle against subversion. I would like to give you an opportunity to speak on the significance of the capture of two prominent criminals, such as Mr. Abimael Guzman—forgive me for calling him mister—and Mr. Victor Polay. Has this improved the morale of the Peruvian people?

[Fujimori] This has boosted the morale of the people and, above all, has opened new perspectives. It is not only the capture of Abimael Guzman and Victor Polay, but practically of all terrorist leaders. Nowadays, very few terrorist leaders are left to be apprehended. A guy called Ramirez and a woman who is in hiding are left to be apprehended. That is it. Regarding the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] leadership, two or three leaders are left to be captured. The terrorists who are still free are low ranking elements who have no military or political decisionmaking power.

[Muller] Mr. President, regarding the struggle against subversion and terrorism, how has your government in 1,000 days done what had not been done in the previous 10 years? Why was not even 10 percent of what has been done accomplished in the previous 10 years?

[Fujimori] There is a process to accomplish each task. I am speaking in agricultural terms. First, one must prepare the land for planting, then comes growing the produce, and finally the harvest period. This process has taken place in this case. In the first place, we had to reorganize some state institutions for the struggle against terrorism. The state organization responsible for apprehending terrorists is obviously the police.

[Muller] Were they lousy institutions?

[Fujimori] No. They were not very well oriented. They were in a period of disarray and had been infiltrated by negative elements. In addition, these organizations lacked leadership and had low morale. We had to reorganize these institutions completely.

You must recall the first days of my administration in which we made deep changes. From this point on, a series of steps have followed that have allowed police to become more efficient. This efficiency, combined with intelligence, has permitted us to make accomplishments.

Now, it is important to stress the fact that this struggle against terrorism will not be waged by killing people or violating human rights. It will be carried out with intelligence, follow up, and a great deal of patience. This is what has permitted us to make these arrests.

[Muller] But it would appear that there have been some human rights violations. In other words, the subversive struggle is not free from abuses. Mr. President, you said the case of La Cantuta has been blown out of proportion by some political sectors. Have violations really disappeared?

[Fujimori] We should not draw conclusions about this situation, but we should simply investigate the facts and deal with this matter in an objective manner.

[Muller] But it appears this has been turned into.... [pauses] Excuse me, those who have suffered attacks like we have, those who have sustained the loss of three men, including a valuable man like Alejandro Perez, who was my right-hand man, sometimes become concerned and ask ourselves, how can it be possible that human rights are so vehemently defended the way they are, while no one defended the human rights of Alejandro Perez, who left a widow and a little girl behind?

[Fujimori] This reflects an unbalance in the treatment of this concept. Human rights of even those who perpetrate terrorist attacks should be defended—like we are doing in the cases of terrorists captured—but at the same time we must defend the human rights of victims. This is the unbalance that has existed in the last few years. This unbalance prompted me to srrongly criticize some organizations that forgot that 22 million Peruvians also have human rights.

[Muller] The 25,000 victims of Shining Path and the MRTA also had human rights.

[Fujimori] Obviously. This was concealed and did not come out in the open, while the government was criticized. I do not deny that on some occasions the state has violated human rights. But the main violators of human rights have been Shining Path and the MRTA. This should be pointed out in all publications so that terrorists are not viewed as victims.

[Muller] Mr. President, don't you think it seems that sometimes the results of this subversive campaign are not properly valued, as well as the arrests of perhaps hundreds of terrorists who have been sentenced to life in prison? Don't you think that some people do not take this matter seriously, after so much blood has been shed?

[Fujimori] In reality, sometimes memory is short and criticism is made unthinkingly. Some people may view these accomplishments as normal now. It is easy to say now that terrorism has been brought under control, as if it was accomplished without effort.

In reality, this is a time consuming and difficult task, in which the Armed Forces and National Police have played a key role. The members of these organizations have risked their own lives and, with the participation of the population, have developed strategies. Now the number one problem evidently is no longer terrorism. Critics now think that this was easily accomplished....

[Muller, interrupting] Mr. President, the previous administration.... [pauses] Excuse me.

[Fujimori] That is why it is important not to forget that this problem existed all over the place only one or two years ago. Peru is no longer the most dangerous country in Latin America or in the world. We are now seeing car bombs in developed countries. Within a few months,

Peru will be one of the safest countries in the world. Six months ago, few people believed that by 1995 Peru would be a country free from terrorism. Today, I reaffirm that by 1993 Peru will be rid of terrorism. I am personally directing this campaign and I will accomplish my objective.

[Muller] Mr. President, let us remember the universities, for example, or perhaps the prisons. I would like to show you what the prisons were like during the previous administration. They were schools of terrorism. This is not allowed anywhere in the world.

[Fujimori] That is correct.

[Muller] We are now seeing the video of what the prisons used to be like.

[Fujimori] Look at the disorder that existed in the prisons. That is Lurigancho, right? The people were walking on the roofs without authorities doing anything to control them. You now see footage of what Castro Castro Prison used to be like. The maximum security prison was used as a center for indoctrination of jailed Shining Path members.

[Muller] Tell me, Mr. President, was the military raid on the prison—which caused some casualties—necessary, as compared to the raid carried out during the previous administration in which 250 subversives were killed—many of whom were killed with their backs against the wall? This raid was prompted by an evident situation of force.

[Fujimori] Precisely, you have indicated the difference. During the previous prison takeover, a slaughter took place. Inmates—whether terrorists or not—were shot in the head. This is abominable.

In this case, we took control of the prison to impose authority. This is done anywhere in the world, even in the most developed countries, where human rights are protected. I cannot understand how we permitted for years that the prisons be used as indoctrination centers.

[Muller] Nobody really understands how it happened. One would have to ask authorities of previous administrations.

Mr. President, let us move on to universities. I remember you were once stoned at a university. Lately, you have been welcomed at universities. Why? What were universities before and what are they now? Was it necessary to intervene militarily at the universities? Was university autonomy violated?

[Fujimori] I think you have some footage that may remind us what universities used to be like.

[Muller] I would like to see the footage on the universities.

[Fujimori] Listen, that was the atmosphere in the universities. I ask myself if one could conduct research in such an atmosphere. Everything was painted with terrorist slogans. If you go now to San Marcos University, the National University of the Center, or any other national university, you will find that the facilities have been totally painted and refurbished and, above all, there is a different environment. There is an academic setting of study and authority now; there is autonomy now. There was no university autonomy before. I have always said this. Nobody is going to lie to me.

[Muller] It should be noted that you have held the post of university rector.

[Fujimori] Not only have I been a university rector, but I was president of the National Board of University Rectors. As president of this board, I criticized this erroneous concept of university autonomy, which is often confused with extraterritoriality. This permitted terrorists to do whatever they wanted, while teachers and professors could not apply their principles or defend their freedoms of thought and expression.

[Muller] Mr. President, when you served as rector of La Molina Agricultural University, did the students not paint terrorist slogans on university walls? Did you prevent students from doing this? Did you talk to students or did you just order them not to paint the walls?

[Fujimori] Well, there was military influence at the Agricultural University. In other words, the terrorist slogans were erased as soon as they were painted on the walls. This was not done by the rector. The students were aware of the fact that this should not be tolerated. This problem was dealt with responsibly at the Agricultural University.

[Muller] To conclude the discussion about terrorism—one of the many topics we will discuss this evening—Mr. President, I would like to observe that while in Madrid I was surprised by the fact that the authorities allowed something that may be a tradition for them but that is nevertheless highly detrimental for our country. Certain spokesmen of the so-called Shining Path ambassadors and a number of people who do not even know where Peru is located—usually they are from Central America—proselytize on behalf of Peruvian terrorist groups in general with the Spanish authorities' knowledge and tacit consent. They evidently charge you with genocide and the so-called President Gonzalo [Abimael Guzman] is called a national hero.

How is it possible that governments that maintain cordial relations with us... [pauses] the governments have terrorist groups as cruel, or more cruel, than Shining Path, for example the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty]. Sometimes I wonder what the Spaniards would say if someone set up a chair and a table at San Martin Square and began to proselytize on behalf of the ETA? How can this be possible, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] Yes, well, it is inconceivable. I also wonder about this, but I have yet to find an answer. It is the goal

of such propaganda to publicize Shining Path and terrorism, to emphasize the human rights violations perpetrated by the state, which may have been a fact, and omit Shining Path's actions. Therefore, some people have an erroneous idea about Shining Path, which is considered a guerrilla group facing an oppressor state. The idea has prevailed for 10 years and we must now change the situation by changing the concept of quote the Shining Path ideology unquote.

[Muller] Do you think this can be changed with an ambassador like Nabor Garcia, who made statements that were evidently contrary to his diplomatic status; or the statements that were made two days ago by the charge d'affaires in the United States? How do you describe these two diplomats' statements?

[Fujimori] I would rather not comment on this. I would like to abide by international laws. Others may violate them but the Peruvian authorities will not violate them.

[Muller] President, does this mean you trust, promise, and guarantee terrorism will be virtually abolished by the end of your administration?

[Fujimori] The tendency is clear and I believe this represents an achievement that will change the course in Peru. No economic program can achieve success without peace.

[Muller] Now that you mention economic programs, may I go for a commercial break? We will continue with the issue of our return to the international financial system and other economic issues in a few minutes.

[Fujimori] Of course.

[Muller] We continue with the President of the Republic. Mr. President, let's move on to economic topics. We have been reintegrated. We are no longer what is commonly known as—ugly but necessary words—dead dogs. Not the Peruvian people, but those who managed the country's economy. Today we have attained reintegration by tightening our belts to the last hole and even making two new holes. We have a hard and difficult economic program. Mr. President, is this sacrifice worth it? Are the reintegration and the adjustment worth all this sacrifice by the Peruvian people, who are suffering in the belly already?

[Fujimori] The reason for this interview, Mr. Muller, is to review the past 1,000 days. One thousand and one, including today.

[Muller] That is why I ask whether the reintegration and the economic plan implemented over these 1,000 days is yielding the desired results.

[Fujimori] This is some sort of balance or evaluation in light of my 1,001 days of government. I still have 825 days to go. It is necessary to remember—just as we have seen some images of the situation at the jails and universities; as for hospitals, I hope some day we will compare what they were two years ago with what they are today—we have to remember where we started.

First of all, we had a huge foreign debt, with huge overdue payments, not just foreign debt, because if the foreign debt payments are kept up to date there is no mayor problem, but we were way behind on our payments. We had immense internal debts of different kinds, with State suppliers and dependents.

The government apparatus was elephantine because of the hundreds of thousands of workers who had joined it over the last presidential terms and a decision had to be made. Our economy was totally prostrated and we had a huge deficit in the central government's budget and in the public enterprises.

Do not forget that, when I started my government, the public enterprises' deficit was approximately $2.5 billion per year. That is a fortune.

Setting off from that basis, which means rubble over rubble, we have had to clean up little by little. Besides that, there is the all around context, as it is not just a matter of isolating the economic problem and then forgetting about terrorism, poverty, the lack of road and school infrastructure, etc. The economic problem had to be dealt with within that difficult context.

[Muller] Did you imagine what you were going to find the disaster in which economy ministers—like that one with the pretty and lost eyes, who apparently did not see a thing—left us? Honestly, did you really imagine what you would have on your hands?

[Fujimori] No. I never imagined the problem was so serious and had such big holes everywhere. What had happened—and I have said this before—was that there was a crack here, they covered it up with something, but then there was a bigger crack over there. And the first crack was only covered superficially, thus, there were successive cracks. It has taken a lot to get to cover all these cracks and that is why we had what you called the belt tightening to the two new holes and the sacrifice. I have spoken of struggle and sacrifice. This is supposed to fix the country and rebuild the economy.

What was our objective? Mr. Muller, we were ranked as a country in the last category. That is to say, Peru was ranked after an African country. It was the most dangerous country, with the fewest guarantees, where one should not go, and no one recommended it. But today Peru has become a country with some attractions, foreign investors come, and national investors are beginning to open their eyes.

Now, then, what has our return to the international financial system entailed? Our return to the international financial system has entailed, first of all, payment of all our accrued debts. Right? We have also renegotiated our foreign debt. This has certainly cost us many sacrifices. Where else would we have gotten the money? It has also entailed access to international credit—not

only from international organizations but also from cooperating countries—and sufficient guarantees for investments.

In other words, our return to the international financial system has opened the door to a world of possibilities through investments and all kinds of investments, above all for the development of our infrastructure. We have one goal, all this has been done for one reason, and it was not to boast that Peru is a member of the international financial community.

The goal is to improve employment levels. As soon as we have investments, the cooperating countries will help us carry out certain projects: the World Bank invests, grants us a $50-million credit line for health plans or the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] grants us $92 million to improve our health infrastructure or $220 million for our highways. All this results in better employment levels. That is our goal because it means welfare for the people.

Consequently, our return to the international financial system had to be achieved sooner or later. It was worthwhile. I believe it is one of the goals achieved within these 1,000 days. The effects may not be perceived right now but it is an essential step. We will enjoy the results in the future, meaning in due time.

[Muller] Mr. President, does this mean the economic program implemented by [former Economy and Finance Minister Juan Carlos] Hurtado Miller, [former Economy and Finance Minister Carlos] Bolona, and [Economy and Finance Minister Jorge] Camet was also worthwhile? Was it really worthwhile? Is there any danger that things will be distorted and the economic plan will... [pauses] I will not use the word fail but the plan may certainly have its weak points and inflation may again skyrocket out of control.

[Fujimori] Look, these same evaluations were made in 1991 and 1992 concerning our economic program. Evaluations have been subsequently made as the program was implemented. Evaluations made by serious economists indicate the goals we established have been achieved, despite our mistakes. We have made social mistakes, meaning mistakes that had dire consequences, but absolutely no one has proposed an alternate economic plan.

The economic plan's implementation can be progressively improved but, as far as plans are concerned, not a single serious economist has submitted a different proposal. That would entail, for example, establishing a limit to the dollar exchange rate or establishing a given interest rate. No, we have not had that kind of proposal.

We now want to achieve the goals outlined in the plan, and the goals have been clearly defined. Some of our short term goals include the stabilization of our economy and the control of inflation—and we will certainly control inflation, which is currently around the 3.5 or 4 percent mark. [chuckles] We must also bear in mind how it was 1,000 days ago. We had a monthly inflation rate of 50 percent.

[Muller] Of course. One rate was in effect when we woke up and another one was in effect by the time we went to bed.

[Fujimori] Yes. Oh, yes.

[Muller] Mr. President, we will talk about these 1,000 days—which have been hard, extremely hard. Sometimes you had to grab the bull by the horns yet other times it seemed you had overdone it. Are you truly satisfied with what you have done? Are you satisfied with what you did on 5 April 1992? Was it necessary to do this?

[Fujimori] Look, these 1,000 days have been an endless, hard struggle. My fellow citizens know me very well [chuckles] and they know I have handled things with objectivity and, on certain occasions, with lots of self-control—because there have been very risky moments.

[Muller] There have been very difficult moments.

[Fujimori] Yes, there have been very difficult moments and there have been critical moments. I have had to make some very delicate and bold decisions, but always bearing in mind the goal of improving this country.

Mr. Muller, dear television viewers: I repeat, I do not want to follow the routine of being a president like the ones we had before. In other words, the president was elected by a percentage of the votes, he then suffered through all the attacks of the opposition, the people lived in what some called a democracy, and then the president concluded his so-called democratic administration. However, in the meantime, the true problems remained covered up to see if the next president would solve them, and Peru continued getting into deeper trouble.

For example, the state bureaucracy: Who was going to perform surgery on the state bureaucracy, which was filled with too many people who were appointed because of political favors. That was no easy task.

[Muller] Those employees did not work much, evidently.

[Fujimori] Let me give you an example: The Agriculture Ministry had three buildings, 12 stories high each, filled with employees who actually hindered the development of agriculture.

Previous governments granted certain subsidies and provided employment to cover up other problems. Those governments did not have any possibility of paying social benefits. We have paid social benefits to persons who were ready to retire after 30 or 32 years of service. We had to do a thorough reorganization, and this entailed a high cost.

[Muller] You had to dismiss many people?

[Fujimori] Yes, but we have not simply dismissed them. Perhaps 30 or 40 percent are getting paid a salary while staying at home, as they have their Cedula Viva pension benefits cards [a special pension plan for government workers with 25 years of service].

[Muller] How lucky can you get?

[Fujimori] Yes, of course, but that is the law. Of course, these are low salaries. Another percentage is now working in providing services. At any rate, I want to say that the state has been thoroughly reorganized.

[Muller] Now the state bureaucracy has been reduced, and it has been thoroughly reorganized. What will be left in state hands?

[Fujimori] The state will be left with an organization that can be handled to promote production and guide public administration. For example, I will refer to privatization. I have always been criticized for not accelerating privatization and so forth. Do you remember back in 1991 and 1992?

[Muller] Yes, I remember.

[Fujimori] I used to say, first we must seek the proper moment for selling and not for auctioning. I avail myself of this opportunity to clarify why we support privatization.

Some public enterprises generated large debts, but we are not closing those enterprises. On the contrary, we are selling them. Then some of the product of the sale will be invested in social projects. Under no circumstances are we closing the enterprises. On the contrary, we are converting them into private hands, and with better production.

[Muller] Actually, this does not favor a large bureaucracy, for which all of us end up paying.

[Fujimori] We did have an enormous deficit.

[Muller] Yes, it was huge. It was as big as the other president we had. Right, more or less?

[Fujimori] No, I would say even larger.

[Muller] Mr. President, let us look at the ethics issue. Evidently there are still some areas or institutions where this needs to be stressed, because we cannot create ethics there with just a pen stroke. This country has grown accustomed to, as the saying goes: Wherever we look there is something rotten. Are you satisfied with the job you have done on this up to now, as a summary or partial result of these first 1,000 days?

[Fujimori] I am satisfied with the public administration's ethical procedures as of 28 July 1990. There are obviously cases from the past that must be cleared up and prosecuted. On this, our legislation tends to be slow, and we have not been able to close any larger cases with specific punishments. We are continuing with the extradition processes in the MUC [standardized exchange rate] dollar cases, in which the U.S. Judge has given his approval. There is one more step to complete for his extradition.

[Muller] And individuals such as Mr. Jantzen and the rest of the gang?

[Fujimori] Yes, but these are long, slow, difficult procedures full of obstacles.

[Muller] Obstacles placed by the countries where these individuals are hiding?

[Fujimori] There is a bit of everything. Right here we have our legislation, as I said.

[Muller] The Navy issue will be followed up to its ultimate consequences?

[Fujimori] Of course. I think it is moving along very nicely.

[Muller] Will there be any specific results?

[Fujimori] There will be results. People will be charged and punished, as this will not lie untouched.

[Muller] How is it possible for them to take $14 million when there are ships out of commission because of the lack of funds? How could we allow such a thing to happen when so many sailors, the great majority of sailors, all of whom are honorable descendants of Admiral Miguel Grau, earn such a miserable wage?

[Fujimori] These are the strange events that have been going on for years without supervision, and not just as of 1984. The case seems to have begun in 1976 or 1978, and continued until now with leadership participation. It is very unfortunate and demoralizing to find out that funds earmarked to strengthen our Navy were used for gambling and purchasing horses.

[Muller] Mr. President, speak briefly on regionalization now. Is it true that you do not support regionalization but seek to reduce the authority of regional leaders? Was their role poorly thought out? What is your opinion on this and what was your objective for these 1,000 days of your administration?

[Fujimori] I evaluate the regionalization program, which began before 1990, based on the results. It was a disaster. It was more a bureaucratic type of administration, in the style of the central government with all its ills, taken to 11 regions. Regular spending was greater than specific expenses and investments, when what the regions needed were more projects such as communications, irrigation, schools, and so on. We must change this situation. We are giving the municipalities as much support as we possibly can. In some cases this is more obvious because of the kind of projects we are carrying out. I favor decentralization. This means that they, in the provinces, must administer their own resources and choose the best way to achieve their development, instead of having the central government decide it for

them. The central government, in most cases, should support them with resources.

[Muller] Mr. President. Briefly on education now. You promised to open one school every week, if not every day, and you have. There are other schools, however, that are in a disgraceful state. Why not reenergize these schools? I know that everything cannot be done, but are you satisfied with what was programmed for these first 1,000 days?

[Fujimori] Nothing more could have been done. There were not enough funds. Although now we are on the issue of modernizing education, we are simultaneously building 40 education centers. I hope I can make it 100 within a few months and greatly surpass the goals I set originally. If I manage to open a school every two days during the 825 days I have left, I could open 410. With this, I could cover about 60 to 80 percent of our current deficit. But we would have to work at that pace to manage it; such is the deficient state of education. It is in motion now, and has good momentum behind it.

[Muller] There are schools, as I said, that are in bad condition that could do with a hand.

[Fujimori] There are thousands of them. Hundreds of them could do with a hand.

[Muller] Mr. President. One last question and then I will let you have the floor, as it were. What would you do if you could go back to that 28 July when you were elected and inaugurated as president? Would you carry out the 5 April actions earlier perhaps?

[Fujimori] I think the date was precise. It could not have been done any earlier or later than that.

[Muller] Why?

[Fujimori] Well, I would like to explain that later.

[Muller] Is it a question of mathematics or arithmetic? You like arithmetic a lot?

[Fujimori] Yes, yes. There were several factors. Of course, it would have been ideal if Congress had approved some measures earlier. For example, I am referring to the death sentence. It would have been ideal to obtain this measure prior to Abimael Guzman's capture.

[Muller] What is better, President, to be killed and be turned into a hero or to rot in prison the rest of one's life?

[Fujimori] The action of executing Abimael Guzman would not turn him into a hero. I do not think so. Everyone is convinced that Abimael Guzman is the biggest genocidal criminal in the world.

[Muller] Everyone but those who follow him.

[Fujimori] No, even some of those who were sympathizers have been convinced. I see that in the rural areas where the people used to follow him, believing he would improve their situation. Now they do not want to know anything about him.

[Muller] President, thank you for your visit. I think it has been an interesting dialogue. The television viewers will have to judge your words and my questions. Would you like to add anything?

[Fujimori] Well, since we have analyzed my first 1,000 days in office....

[Muller, interrupting] What will happen in the next 1,000 days?

[Fujimori] What will happen in the next 825 days? We have promoted activities in certain areas with specific objectives which I have personally directed. The struggle against terrorism, for instance. That has its own dynamics now. Some items of the economic reintegration program are still not complete. The process of stabilizing the economy is being handled quite well. The recovery of the educational infrastructure continues on course and in a few months I will be able to delegate it to a team of people for them to handle it.

We must now emphasize certain social issues. I am referring basically to two aspects. One is the wellbeing of the community pertaining to basic services. This year, during the coming 12 months, we will invest approximately $200 million in water, drainage, and electricity projects. By the end of my term in office, there will be almost no new community without these basic utilities. This is a fundamental part of the struggle for peace.

The other goal, which I am going to undertake personally, is nutrition and, simultaneously, agricultural development. Now, for example, we have a plan to purchase 10 million kg of rice in Camana. There the prices were dropping and the producers were falling into the hands of the speculators. I purchased 10 million kg of rice to take to needy areas. This is a global program that I will direct personally until it gets in motion.

Along with this, there must be an employment plan, although at first with temporary jobs to improve the current difficult situation. With this I believe we will complete the country's overall recovery.

[Muller] Thank you very much. One last favor. Please, let us not have the tanks out in the streets so much, because they frighten the people.

[Fujimori] Well, they went out for a few hours and returned to their fort, but everyone has come out stronger. Don't you think so?

[Muller] General Hermoza [Armed Forces Joint Command chief] has also come out strengthened.

[Fujimori] All the Armed Forces, the National Police, and the Congress have been strengthened. We got what was needed here: a climate of mutual respect. I think the country has come out the winner after all.

[Muller] But when one sees tanks in the streets, one gets frightened.

[Fujimori] Well, rifles are more dangerous because tanks do not open fire that easily.

[Muller] Mr. President, thank you for being with us tonight.